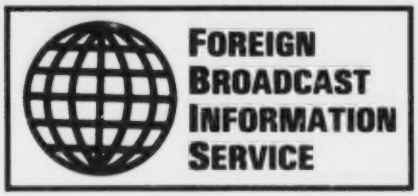

Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-91-016
Thursday
24 January 1991

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-91-016 *24 January 1991*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Alarcon on UN's 'Parsimony' in War Initiatives *[Havana TV]* 1
Commentary Criticizes Designs on Puerto Rico *[Havana International]* 1
Death Sentence Ratification Requested in Case *[Havana TV]* 1

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

CTU Debates Satellite Benefits at Meeting *[CANA]* 1
Leaders Send Congratulations to Sandiford *[CANA]* 2

Antigua and Barbuda

Labor, Management Petition Government for Code *[CANA]* 2

Barbados

DLP Government Reelected for Five More Years *[Havana Radio]* 2
BLP Attributes Victory to Withheld Information *[CANA]* 3

St. Lucia

Sandiford Barbados Election Victory Welcomed *[CANA]* 3

Trinidad and Tobago

Minister Issues Figures on Government Borrowing *[CANA]* 3

MEXICO

* Human Rights Unit Report Details Activities 4
* 33 Recommendations Noted *[LA JORNADA 17 Dec]* 4
Related Human Rights Reporting *[cross-reference]* 20
* Independence Questioned *[PROCESO 17 Dec]* 20

CENTRAL AMERICA

Belize

'Cooperation Agreements' Signed With Taiwan *[CANA]* 23

El Salvador

Authorities: FMLN Should Turn Over Prisoners *[San Salvador Radio]* 23
Armed Forces Vow Not To Interfere in Elections *[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 19 Jan]* 24
15 Ayutuxtepeque Peasants Killed by Men in Black *[San Salvador TV]* 24
Cristiani Announces Credit System for Workers *[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 22 Jan]* 25

Guatemala

Energy Minister Foresees No Fuel Shortage *[Guatemala TV]* 25

Honduras

Armed Forces Deny National Troops in Gulf Area *[LA TRIBUNA 23 Jan]* 26
Government Suspends Fuel Rationing Measures *[TIEMPO 22 Jan]* 26
* Infant Malnutrition, Causes Reviewed *[EL HERALDO 29 Nov]* 27

Nicaragua

Ortega, Libya's Al-Qadhdhafi on Persian Gulf War *[BARRICADA 23 Jan]* 28
Sandinist Ramirez: Possible Alliance Unsuitable *[BARRICADA 22 Jan]* 28

Panama

Arnulfists Angered by Endara-Arias Agreement *[EL PERIODICO 23 Jan]* 30
PRD Denounces Government's 'Judicial Terrorism'
[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 23 Jan] 30
2 Officers Seek Asylum at Guatemalan Embassy *[Panama City TV]* 31
'Irregular Army' Reportedly Forming in Costa Rica *[EL PERIODICO 23 Jan]* 31

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Menem Offers Food, Medicine to Arab Countries *[TELAM]* 32
Iraqi Arson of Kuwaiti Oil Wells Condemned *[TELAM]* 32
Attacks on Israel, Treatment of POW's Condemned *[TELAM]* 32
Deputies Authorize 'Logistical Support' in Gulf *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 32
Justicialist Party Supports Troops in Gulf *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 23 Jan]* 32
Cavallo Asserts Falklands Not Similar to Kuwait *[TELAM]* 33

Bolivia

Deputy Charges Border Markers With Chile Moved *[La Paz TV]* 33

Brazil

Domestically Made Rocket Launcher Sold to Iraq *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 34
Attack on Israel Viewed With 'Displeasure' *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 34
Itamaraty Plans Evacuation of Brazilians in Qatar *[Brasilia Radio]* 34
Military Ministries Cut Back on Fuel Consumption *[Brasilia Radio]* 34
Government Accepts Paper's Apology to Collor *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 34
* Serra on Constitution, Wage Policy, Inflation *[ISTOE SENHOR 21 Nov]* 35

Chile

Government Expresses 'Solidarity' With Israel *[Santiago Radio]* 39
Communist Party Rejects Violence in Baltic States *[Santiago Radio]* 39
Government Responds to Bolivian Border Charge *[Santiago Radio]* 39
Ominami Questions U.S. Delay in GSP Privileges *[Santiago Radio]* 40
Drug Dealers Arrested, 1.2 Kg of Cocaine Seized *[Santiago Radio]* 40

Colombia

New Terrorist Group Supports Iraqi Government *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 40
FARC Commander, 6 Others Killed in Putumayo *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 40
ELN Dynamites Cano Limon-Covenas Pipeline *[Bogota TV]* 41
Police Unit Rescues Senator, Kills 4 Kidnappers *[Madrid EFE]* 41

Ecuador

U.S. Draws on Reserves, Lowers Oil Prices *[Quito Radio]* 41

Paraguay

Protection of Allied Forces' Embassies Doubled *[Asuncion TV]* 41
Poll Shows Support for President, Politicians *[ULTIMA HORA 23 Jan]* 41

Peru

Explosives Thrown at Peruvian-U.S. Institute *[Madrid EFE]* 42
Arequipa President Warns of Shining Path Actions *[EXPRESO 15 Jan]* 42
New National Intelligence Service Chief Installed *[EL COMERCIO 16 Jan]* 43

Uruguay

Argentine Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks *[Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 43

Venezuela

Government, U.S. Bank Sign Economic Agreement *[Caracas TV]* 43

Guyana

Opposition Party Calls For Middle East Conference *[CANA]* 44

Suriname

Kraag Following Developments in Gulf 'Closely' *[Paramaribo International]* 44

Cuba

Alarcon on UN's 'Parsimony' in War Initiatives

FL2301163791 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, has criticized the lack of action of the Security Council during the development of the war in the Persian Gulf. Alarcon referred to the parsimony with which the UN Security Council is treating the initiatives for a cease-fire submitted by the nonaligned and Maghreb countries. In statements made to [words indistinct] the Security Council has turned into a video club in which its members follow the events in the Gulf through the U.S. television and do not do what they are supposed to.

Diplomatic sources close to the Security Council confirmed that the United States is maintaining its opposition to a peace initiative supported by the nonaligned and Maghreb countries.

Commentary Criticizes Designs on Puerto Rico

PA2401042391 Havana International Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Jan 91

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] The use of force is reprehensible regardless of who uses it. That is why most of the countries of the world condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The reasons given by the United States and the rights it has usurped to start this very dangerous war in the Persian Gulf—dragging along most of its faithful allies—is far more censurable, however. Furthermore, the reasons cited by all U.S. Administrations when they have decided to intervene in other countries have also been very blameworthy. Washington has, openly or covertly, intervened in other countries 380 times since 1789 to defend its interests or citing the excuse of securing peace. It is strange that an enormous warmongering might is used to defend peace but, unfortunately, this has been the case. Clearly, the White House always reaffirms its decision to completely disregard the process of detente and demonstrates that it has no intention of allowing extensive peace—much less allow other nations to choose their own destinies.

This preamble and current Middle East events are to present the United States as an example, a bad example, in matters of intervention.

The case that concerns us here today is the annexation of Puerto Rico by Washington. The United States has wanted to annex the island ever since it intervened there militarily in 1898. Gradually, Washington subjected Puerto Rico to large-scale economic spoliation and transformed it into a Pentagon fortress of war to be used against the national liberation movements in the Caribbean and Central America. The U.S. has used all the means at its disposal to trample the Puerto Rican people's yearning for independence. It has imposed culture-altering policies, such as making English the official language in schools for almost 50 years and recruiting Puerto Rican youths to participate in its military adventures. Although English was finally discarded from Puerto Rican classrooms, the island continues to have the hated status of free associated state. Imperial Washington has attempted to disguise its colonial control over Puerto Rico since 1952, but it does a very poor job.

For some time there has been talk of holding a plebiscite in Puerto Rico to decide the nation's political status, and even though the United States has attempted to portray itself as favorable to a free Puerto Rican decision, it is exerting all kinds of pressure in favor of annexation. To have Puerto Rico as another star on its flag is an old U.S. dream. The island's strategic position is a powerful motive that has been wielded by military and political strategists, and is in accordance with the goals that U.S. presidents have always had concerning Puerto Rican territory. The plebiscite, which was scheduled for 1991, has been postponed until the U.S. Senate can fully debate the plebiscite's regulations. At any rate, Puerto Rico should not be indifferent when the United States' multiple military and colonial interventions throughout the world are discussed.

Death Sentence Ratification Requested in Case

FL2301161791 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] The Attorney General's office has requested the ratification of a death sentence for Jorge Luis Gonzalez Norona, in the case filed against him for murder, breaking and entering, intimidation, burglary, impersonation, and sexual abuse. Gonzalez Norona is unemployed and has a very bad criminal record. He was the perpetrator of the crimes committed against citizens Maria Gonzalez (Sack), Sylvia (Suquet) Fuentes, and Engracia Omaira Padilla Quinonez, all residents of Centro Habana Municipality in Havana.

The request was made after the death sentence was handed over by the Havana Peoples' Provincial Tribunal. The evidence showed that Jorge Luis Gonzalez Norona is not mentally ill and, therefore, is capable of controlling his behavior and understanding the consequences of his actions.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

CTU Debates Satellite Benefits at Meeting

FL2301170991 Bridgetown CANA in English 1513 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] St. Georges, Grenada, Jan 23, CANA—Whether Caribbean countries can benefit from having their own communications satellite is on the agenda of a two-day meeting of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union [CTU], winding up in Grenada Thursday.

Host minister of communications and works, Kenny Lalsingh said it was an important matter for the region to examine, and he knew that a regional satellite programme being worked on by the CTU would benefit the region. Lalsingh said the one-year-old CTU is "an example of the region's commitment to greater integration."

"The political importance of telecommunications lies in our ability to overcome physical and cost difficulties to regularize contact among governments," he declared. He called for an increased role for telecommunications in education saying: "In Grenada we have a desperate need for managers, and an open university which will be available to all at the turn of a switch will be welcomed."

He noted that the telecommunications service sector is growing rapidly in many economies and "we will have to look to the CTU to help us exploit the full potential of the telecommunications revolution."

The Grenada meeting is to determine how best the industry can work for the people of the region, Secretary General Deoraj Ramnarine said. "The intention of the CTU and its mandate is to deal with telecommunications in its entire spectrum, including broadcasting both video and radio," he explained.

The CTU was formed last year in Trinidad and Tobago with a mandate to advise the region on policy matters, after Caribbean Community governments gave the green light in 1987.

Leaders Send Congratulations to Sandiford

FL2301222091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2120 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 23, CANA—Congratulatory messages poured into Barbados on Wednesday for Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford following his party's comfortable re-election for a second five-year term at the polls on Tuesday.

The Government Information Service (GIS) said congratulations have come from several Caribbean leaders, including the President of Guyana Desmond Hoyte, Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson of Trinidad and Tobago, Prime Minister James Mitchell of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds of St. Kitts-Nevis, Jamaican Deputy Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, and Caribbean Community (Caricom) Secretary-General Roderick Rainford. Sandiford also received congratulations from heads of diplomatic missions resident here.

Sandiford's ruling Democratic Labour Party (DLP) beat its two rivals—the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) and the National Democratic Party (NDP)—capturing 18 of the 28 parliamentary seats, two less than in the last Parliament. The BLP, led by lawyer Henry Forde, took the remaining 10 seats.

Antigua and Barbuda

Labor, Management Petition Government for Code

FL2401134991 Bridgetown CANA in English 1306 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, Jan 24, CANA—Employers and a major trade union in Antigua and Barbuda have called on the government to publish copies of the labour code. A statement from the Antigua Employers Federation (AEF) said the body deplored "the continued unavailability" of copies of the labour code. The pro-government Antigua Trades and Labour Union (ATLU) also expressed concern.

The AEF noted this situation has existed for at least five years, during which time representatives had both written and held discussions with the minister of labour, who repeatedly had promised to address the problem. At a meeting last August between the Federation and the minister of labour, AEF representatives were informed "it was the attorney general's responsibility of ensuring that copies of the legislation were printed and published."

"With the steady influx of new businesses, along with the awareness of workers of their individual rights, the necessity of having access to the labour laws is even more crucial," the AEF said. "There is no doubt that many labour disputes exist due to the lack of knowledge of the legal requirements," the AEF added.

"For quite sometime, we at the trade union have been complaining about the unavailabilty of the labour code," ATLU president William Robinson said. The ATLU said a tripartite body of representatives from the trade unions, employers, and government was set up in the mid-1980's to look at and make recommendations for improving the existing labour code. Robinson, a member of the National Labour Board Committee, said recommendations were forwarded to the minister of labour.

"It is essential that the labour code be had in every workplace so that the workers can become acquainted with what the employer should do to them and what they should do to the employers," Robinson said.

The Labour Department recently launched a campaign using radio and television to sensitize the public about aspects of the labour code. The Department said the campaign was in response to the "multiplicity and regularity of the questions" which officials have to answer on a daily basis.

Barbados

DLP Government Reelected for Five More Years

FL2301181491 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1725 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] The Democratic Labor Party [DLP] has been reelected for five more years during the general elections

held in Barbados although it lost two of the 20 seats it had in the parliament. An AFP report says that, according to unofficial estimates, 64 percent of voters cast their ballots. This shows a growth in the number of people who abstained, 12 percent compared to the elections held five years ago.

BLP Attributes Victory to Withheld Information

FL2301194891 Bridgetown CANA in English 1918 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 23, CANA—The Barbados Labour Party (BLP) would have won Tuesday's general elections if the truth had been told of the country's economic position, party leader Henry Forde told a radio station here.

Forde, to be leader of the opposition after his party's showing in the elections, has accused Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Government of concealing information on the economy, which his party claims is in trouble. The DLP has denied the charge.

A low turnout of 62 percent of 191,000 registered voters in the 28 constituencies gave 18 seats to Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford's DLP, and 10 to Forde's BLP. The National Democratic Party (NDP) of outgoing opposition leader Dr. Richie Haynes failed to win a seat in its first election.

The DLP won 24 seats at the 1986 elections, but lost four when Haynes and a splinter group broke away to form the NDP and become the main opposition. The BLP won only three seats in 1986, when 27 constituencies were contested.

Forde cautioned the victorious DLP to understand the meaning of its reduced majority. The BLP will now be in a position to insist upon the truth and to police the ruling party in the Parliament, he said.

"The critical thing now is that Mr. Sandiford and his party must understand what the election results really mean. I caution Mr. Sandiford and his team that they should not let failure go to their heads," he said. "Now that the Barbados Labour Party has been given a substantially increased block of representatives in Parliament, we will be in a position to mandate that the truth be told...and we will be vigilant in policing the actions and curbing the excesses of the government."

St. Lucia

Sandiford Barbados Election Victory Welcomed

FL2301215091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2102 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Jan 23, CANA—St. Lucia on Wednesday welcomed the victory of the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) in Tuesday's general election in Barbados. Foreign Affairs Minister Neville Cenac in a statement said accusations of economic mismanagement against the Barbados Government had proven to be merely an opposition gimmick. But he said that the opposition Barbados Labour Party (BLP) by winning an additional seven seats in the new Parliament "should help a great deal to keep the government on its toes."

"The failure of the National Democratic Party to win even a single seat shows that the people of Barbados (think) that the two party system makes for stable government....," he added.

The DLP was returned with a reduced parliamentary majority. It won 18 of the 28 seats at stake.

Trinidad and Tobago

Minister Issues Figures on Government Borrowing

FL2301201091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1655 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan 23, CANA—The Trinidad and Tobago Government has put its borrowings for the last four years (1987-1990) at 6.079 billion dollars (one TT dollar equals 23.5 cents U.S.). Finance Minister Selby Wilson gave the figure in the Senate on Tuesday. He said it was TT 3.304 billion dollars less than in the 1983-1986 period under a former government. Wilson was answering a question posed by opposition Senator Wade Mark.

In 1987, the external debt rose from TT 7.455 billion dollars to 10.540 billion dollars, Wilson said. He said that partially responsible for the increase was the August 1988 devaluation of the Trinidad and Tobago dollar.

The internal debt in the three-year period rose by TT 2.4 billion dollars gross, while 594 million dollars was drawn from loan facilities at the central bank. Wilson said the borrowings were to finance the government's capital programme and overall deficits as indicated in budgets for the respective years.

* Human Rights Unit Report Details Activities

* 33 Recommendations Noted

91CA0053A Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 17 Dec 90 PERFIL DE LA JORNADA Supplement pp I-VIII

[Text of "National Human Rights Commission First Semiannual Report, June-December 1990, Mexico City"]

[Text] Citizen Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Constitutional President of the United Mexican States

Mr. President:

In compliance with Article 5, Section V of the decree creating the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) and Article 10, Section VI of the Rules of Procedure of the National Commission itself, it is a great pleasure for me to report to you on the work that this National Commission has done during the first six months of its existence, as of 3 December, on the results of the actions that it has undertaken, on the progress of its programs, and on the difficulties that it has encountered during these six months.

In drafting this report, I listened to the views of the National Commission's Council and of our closest colleagues. I, however, am solely responsible for its contents.

I. Organization and Administrative Infrastructure

The National Commission immediately set about organizing itself and establishing an administrative infrastructure that would enable it to discharge the functions that it has been assigned. Among the most important aspects of this I can mention:

The drafting of a budget to begin operations, and as the budget was being approved, the drafting of a minimum list of emergency needs. Most of these emergency needs were met by 26 August, although some items on the list, such as the computer hardware, were not furnished until 13 November.

The current- and capital-expenditures section of the budget was approved on 24 August, and the human-resources section on 26 October.

In all matters relating to the National Commission's budget, it had the support of the Office of the Principal Official of the Interior Secretariat and its General Directorates, as well as of the General Directorate of Planning and Budget. Let the record show, however, that the delay in passage of the human-resources section of the budget until the aforementioned date, along with all of the problems that this entailed, was due to the General Directorate of Civil Service. Not only did it fail to cooperate in any respect, but it also delayed all of the formalities. For example, it failed to send a document verifying our organizational structure to the Secretariat of the Office of the Comptroller General of the Federation until a month after its doubts about our organizational chart had been cleared up for it. The attitude of this General Directorate complicated the operations of this Commission enormously during the early months of its existence.

The National Commission has been working in three separate facilities: the chairman and two directors general on two floors that MICONSA [CONASUPO Processed Corn, Inc.] provided; the Inspector's Office and the Executive Secretariat in a remodeled house that the Secretariat of Urban Development and Ecology was kind enough to turn over to the Commission; and the Technical Secretariat of the Council in the installations of the former General Directorate of Human Rights.

The people who have visited us have been able to see for themselves that we are severely lacking in physical space. One of the administrative goals of this six month period was to locate a building that could house all of the offices of the National Commission so that personnel could have the room they need to carry on their work normally. After more than 50 buildings were visited, the decision was made, in keeping with the funds that had been authorized, to purchase 75 percent of a building that is being completed in the southern part of the city under a lease-contract with Banobras [National Bank for Public Works and Services] through its leasing agency, with which more than 35 financing arrangements were analyzed. In achieving this goal we had the cooperation of the Secretariats of Planning and Budget, Finance and Public Credit, Urban Development and Ecology, and the Department of the Federal District, as well as Banobras itself.

The first three floors of the building are expected to be occupied in January 1991, and the Commission as a whole is expected to be working there by April.

The administrative organization of the National Commission has almost been completed but will continue to undergo whatever modifications circumstances and experience dictate.

II. Sessions of the Commission Council

The National Commission's Council met nine times; during these sessions the general guidelines of action of the Commission were discussed and, when appropriate, approved. In all there were 54 hours of meetings, the most important result of which was the drafting and approval of the National Commission's Rules of Procedure. At the unanimous request of the Council, the president of the republic ordered them published in the DIARIO OFICIAL DE LA FEDERACION [government's official gazette], which was done on 1 August of this year.

In addition, the Council drew up and approved various propositions as guidelines of action for the Commission's officials. Among the most important of them I should emphasize:

"A massive battle against drug trafficking is compatible with the conscientious defense of human rights," and

"In Mexico, all individuals, even those accused of the most serious crimes, are entitled to the individual guarantees enshrined in our constitution, which include the guarantees of the integrity and dignity of the individual and especially the guarantees that must be honored during preliminary investigations and criminal proceedings.

"In defending these rights, the CNDH will take prompt action to guarantee them before any authority, without attempting to supplant the functions that are properly those of the courts, and will act with the independence that it essential to it."

It is with great pleasure that I thank the distinguished members of the Council for the enthusiasm, time, and support that they have given the Commission.

III.Program of Complaints

From the creation of the National Commission on 6 June until 3 December, a total of 1,343 complaints were submitted, including the 205 files turned in by the then General Directorate of Human Rights of the Interior Secretariat (Annex 1 [this is apparently a reference to annexes that are part of the full CNDH report but that are not included with this document]).

These complaints were processed as follows:

a) Complaints resolved—397

b) Complaints that could not be classified for lack of information from the complainant—200

c) Complaints being processed—746

Total—1,343

In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the complaints submitted were classified as:

- Complaints about presumed violations of human rights: 841
- Complaints over which the CNDH has no jurisdiction: 302
- Complaints referred to in Clause b) of the previous paragraph: 200

The above data can be broken down in several ways. Of the total number of complaints submitted, 827 are individual, and 516 are collective. In this regard, I should note that it is practically impossible to quantify with complete accuracy the universe of complainants and aggrieved parties who have had access to the Commission's services, inasmuch as in several cases the complaints were submitted on behalf of social organizations such as ejidos [Indian communally-held farmlands], indigenous communities, unions, or urban groups, without any specific mention of the number of their members. Nevertheless, there are approximately 3,500 aggrieved parties just in the cases in which their numbers are indicated.

As of 3 December 1990, 397 complaints were resolved, in the following ways:

A) Complaint resolved during processing or guidance provided to complainant: 204

B) Outside the Commission's area of responsibility, unable to give guidance: 146

C) Complainant withdrew charges: 9

D) Complainant uninterested in continuing proceedings: 6

E) Recommendations arising from 27 complaint files: 33

F) Declaration of nonaccountability: 5

With regard to letter A), the following can be cited as typical of the complaints that were resolved during internal procedures or through guidance given to the complainant:

- Complaints that were resolved when a person who was reported as missing or kidnapped was found;
- Complaints in which a request was made to end the solitary-confinement status of an individual;
- Complaints in which the aggrieved party regained the freedom of which he had been illegally deprived;
- Complaints in which redress of grievances for arbitrary acts of the authorities was requested;
- Complaints in which the wrong was the delay of a trial beyond what the constitution provides;
- Complaints in which the return of illegally seized assets was requested;
- Complaints of isolation or mistreatment in prison;
- Complaints in which the transfer of an inmate to the prison in which he legally belonged was requested;
- Complaints about actions that, under the Rules of Procedure, are not human-rights violations but are violations of provisions of various legal codes or that constitute crimes that ought to be reported to the Public Prosecutor's Office. In these cases, besides giving the complainant written guidance, the Commission has also asked the corresponding authority in writing to attend to the matter and report on his actions.

Regarding B), matters in which it has been determined that the Commission does not have jurisdiction, the reasons for such a decision were as follows:*

1. Because a final verdict had been handed down: 50 times

2. Because it was a substantive judicial matter: 71 times

3. Because it was a labor conflict under the jurisdiction of a Board or open to a judicial settlement: 61 times

4. Because it was a conflict between private citizens: 41 times

5. Because it concerned the certification or administration of elections: four times

6. Others, for example: housing request, tax collection, permit application, increase in pension: 116 times

*These numbers do not match those cited in the list of resolved complaints because the former refer to complaints and the latter to reasons for lack of jurisdiction, and in many cases there was more than one reason for lack of jurisdiction in a single complaint.

Regarding the National Commission's lack of jurisdiction, it should be made clear that when a human right is violated, there must always be action or negligence by an authority or public servant. In the case of relations between private individuals, there may be civil liability or a crime, but not a human-rights violation. In order for there to be a human-rights violation, there must be, I repeat and it must be repeated as often as necessary, an action or omission by an authority or public servant. This is a universally accepted principle. There are various legal channels in Mexico for demanding accountability in relations between private individuals.

The National Commission was not created to disrupt the legal order but rather to enrich it. Determination of the Commission's lack of jurisdiction vis-a-vis the courts and in substantive judicial matters is of particular importance.

One of the most important elements of the democratic system in any country is the independence and capacity of the Judiciary. The National Commission is neither replacing the courts nor interfering with their inherent function: the law.

The National Commission is not competent to intervene regarding final verdicts or in substantive judicial matters:

Because there must always be a final decision-making body that reviews the rulings of lower bodies; the final body is generally the Judiciary, although in exceptional cases it can be the Legislature, as in impeachment proceedings. Because cases must come to an end; they cannot remain pending indefinitely, and when the end is reached, the verdict achieves the status of res judicata, legal truth, which helps to reinforce legal certainty. Because it is neither possible nor appropriate to try to replace or interfere with the work of the Judiciary, which is carried on in stages indicated by law; and it is the judge who is most familiar with the case file, which is the basis for the verdict. Because the independence of the Judiciary cannot be impaired, as this is one of the best guarantees that the freedom, dignity, and legal security of individuals will be defended.

In contrast, the National Human Rights Commission can intervene in the event of irregularities in proceedings, including judicial proceedings, because in such cases no substantive judicial matter is being examined and yet individual guarantees enshrined in the Constitution may be violated, for example, if the maximum period set by the constitution for handing down a verdict in a criminal trial is exceeded. In this case the National Commission can and must, as it has, address itself to the judge in question and "recommend" that he accelerate the process within his legal powers. In such a situation, none of the aforementioned grave dangers of intervention in final verdicts and substantive legal matters is involved, because at no time and under no circumstances does such a recommendation refer to them, but rather solely and exclusively to a defect in procedure.

Complainants have gradually come to accept that the Commission does not have jurisdiction over final verdicts and substantive judicial matters, and little by little the courts have come to accept that the Commission does have jurisdiction over defects in judicial proceedings.

The above arguments are applicable to labor conflicts in which an administrative authority does not intervene.

The National Commission is not competent to intervene in matters relating to the certification or administration of elections because: in order for the Commission to be successful in promoting, protecting, and defending the life, physical integrity, freedom, dignity, and legal security of individuals, it must not become involved in partisan politics, which would detract from its objectivity and impartiality in discharging its social function as an "ombudsman."

Moreover, under our country's constitution certain bodies are in charge of administering and certifying elections (the Federal Congress, Electoral Tribunals, and the Federal Electoral Institute). To replace or duplicate the powers of these bodies would not only encroach on their areas of responsibility but would also turn the Commission into a superbranch of government that would be above all legislative and judicial bodies in the country.

For the above reasons, ombudsmen all over the world do not involve themselves in electoral matters, especially administration and certification.

Regarding C), abandonment by the complainant applies only when he requests in writing that the proceedings not be continued because this is in his interest.

As for D), the Council of the National Human Rights Commission decided that in those cases in which information was requested from the complainant three times and more than three months passed without any response, the cases in question would be filed as resolved, even though in exceptional instances they could be reopened. This decision is based on the idea that if the complainant is no longer interested, it is useless to keep the case open indefinitely. Regarding E), as I have already noted, during the period in question, the Commission issued 22 recommendations; they were sent, in chronological order, to the following authorities the indicated number of times:

1. Office of the Attorney General of the Republic (PGR), 10

2. Secretariat of National Defense, 1

3. Sixth District Criminal Court Judge of the Third Circuit, 1

4. Second District Judge of Chihuahua, 1

5. Constitutional Governor of the State of Baja California, 1

6. Third District Judge of Baja California, 1

7. Fourth District Judge of Baja California, 1

8. Fifth District Judge of Baja California, 1

9. Constitutional Governor of the State of Tamaulipas, 1

10. Constitutional Governor of the State of Tabasco, 1

11. Constitutional Governor of the State of Morelos, 1

12. Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice of the Federal District, 1

13. First District Judge of Hidalgo, 1

14. Civil-criminal Lower-court Judge of Mihuatlan, Oaxaca, 1

15. Second Lower-court Judge of the Civil Branch of the Judicial District of Tabares, Guerrero, 1

16. Mayor of Acapulco, Guerrero, 1

17. Constitutional Governor of the State of Hidalgo, 3

18. Mayor of Chilpancingo, Guerrero, 1

19. Constitutional Governor of the State of Michoacan, 2

20. Secretary of Communications and Transportation, 1

21. Constitutional Governor of the State of Michoacan, 1

22. Constitutional Governor of the State of Oaxaca, 1

23. Constitutional Governor of the State of Sinaloa, 1

24. Attorney General of the Federal District, 1

25. Constitutional Governor of the State of Veracruz, 1

26. Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice of the State of Veracruz, 1

27. President of the Guerrero State Congress, 1

28. Attorney General of the State of Oaxaca, 1

29. Civil-criminal Lower-court judge of Pochutla, Oaxaca, 1

30. Constitutional Governor of the State of Baja California Sur, 1

Recommendation number one referred to the case of Mr. Oscar Humberto Castro Rodriguez, who was beaten, threatened, and blackmailed in the state of Sinaloa by agents of the State Judicial Police assigned to the headquarters of the Federal Judicial Police. The recommendation was that agents Jorge Arteaga Valdez and Jose Martin Velazquez be dismissed and, if appropriate, prosecuted.

Recommendation number two referred to the case of David Moreno Lizarraga, an engineer and the rector of the Autonomous University of Sinaloa, who was intimidated and threatened by Federal Judicial Police agents posted in that state. The recommendation was to suspend agents Carlos Monroy Hernandez and Pedro Martin Almada Guzman and to take the necessary measures to guarantee the physical integrity of the complainant and his family.

Recommendation number three referred to the case of of Mr. Jorge Argaez Perez, who was killed by Federal Judicial Police agents in the state of Quintana Roo. The recommendation was to immediately assign preliminary investigation 84/90 to the Chetumal district judge, to issue arrest warrants for the alleged culprits, to dismiss agent Alejandro San Pedro Garcia, and to bring him before the district judge in question.

Recommendations numbers four and five referred to the case of Australian citizen Phillip Edward Hasting, who was tortured in the state of Jalisco and arraigned before the Sixth District Criminal Court of the Third Circuit on charges of crimes against public health. In the first case the recommendation was to begin the investigative proceedings in order to dismiss, if appropriate, agents Jose Maria Navarro Castro, Eladio Bautista Magdaleno, and Mario Sanchez Jimenez, and in the second to streamline the corresponding criminal trial, which was not being conducted within constitutionally established time periods.

Recommendation number six referred to the case of Mrs. Rocio Fernandez Gonzalez, who was the wife of the now deceased Erick Quijano Santoyo, and to the house at 1 Paseo de la Escondida, Ojo de Agua Housing Development, inasmuch as the building in question had been seized by the Federal Judicial Police. The recommendation was to remove the seals and return it to its legitimate owner.

Recommendation number seven referred to the case of youths Apolinar Moreno Mena and Florentino Chavez Miranda, inmates at the Social Rehabilitation Center of Chihuahua, who seem to be under age and to have trouble understanding Spanish because of their ethnic origin. A medical examination was recommended in order to ascertain their state of health and, based on the results, to continue or modify their confinement, as well as to appoint an interpreter to help them in the corresponding procedures.

Recommendations numbers 8 and 10 referred to the case of the "La Mesa" Penitentiary in the city of Tijuana, Baja California. Conditions there prompted the Commission to recommend, on the one hand, that urgent measures be taken to separate defendants and convicts,

men and women, adults and minors, and that priority be given to the construction of Tecate Prison in Baja California, and on the other, that under the provisions of the law, the trials of 766 individuals who were being held in that penitentiary be expedited, so that proper verdicts could be handed down.

Recommendation number 11 also referred to an inmate at "La Mesa," citizen Ruben Oropeza Hurtado, who apparently died from the torture inflicted by Federal Judicial Police agents. The recommendation was to suspend and begin proceedings to fire Judicial Police agents Rafael Becerril Zendejas and Alfonso Trevino Pena, as well as to initiate the preliminary investigation and to charge the aforementioned individuals.

Recommendation number 13 referred to the case of the "Palacio de Andonegui" Social Rehabilitation Center in Tampico. The main request was that the director and first commandant of the facility be fired and that the physical conditions there be improved.

Recommendation number 14 referred to the case of Messrs. Jesus Manuel Martinez Ruiz and Julio Cesar Marquez Valenzuela. The former was tortured and killed by agents of the State Judicial Police of Tabasco; the latter was a witness to the incident. The recommendation was to begin an investigation to fire Mr. Jose Conrado Garrido David, the director of the State Judicial Police, on grounds of perjury; to complete the preliminary investigation, and to indict citizens Simon Jimenez Urbina, Carlos Rascon Morales, Ambrosio Antonio Joaquin, Gabriel Hernandez Valencia, Jose Manuel Notario Suarez, Humberto Jeronimo Jeronimo, Clemente Rivera Leon, and Constantino Caporali Vidal. In conclusion, it was also recommended that the physical integrity of Mr. Julio Cesar Marquez Valenzuela be guaranteed.

Recommendation number 15 referred to the murder of Pedro Villafuerte Gallegos, the first district judge in Cuernavaca. A request was made to investigate the former director of the State Judicial Police, the former director of the Social Rehabilitation Center of the State of Morelos, and the Public Prosecutor's Office in charge of the preliminary investigation and to establish whether and in what way they may have been responsible. It was also recommended that a team be formed to investigate the Federal Judicial Police and the Judicial Police of the State of Morelos, to clarify the facts, and to find the perpetrators and masterminds of Judge Villafuerte's murder.

Recommendation number 16 referred to the complaint filed by Mr. Miguel Alvarado Gutierrez in connection with an illegality by Guillermo Meneses Vazquez, the 24th civil-criminal justice of the peace of the Federal District, in trial number 65/88 (assault and battery). The recommendation was to investigate the incident and ascertain whether the judge in question should continue serving in the Federal District Judiciary.

Recommendation number 17 referred to the cases of citizens Gregorio Tolentino Arellano and Encarnacion Hernandez Hernandez, whose criminal trials had overstepped the constitutional deadline for handing down a verdict. The recommendation was to streamline the preliminary-investigation stage and to issue a verdict as soon as possible.

Recommendation number 18, concerning the case of citizen Virgilio Martinez Lopez, was of the same nature as Recommendation 17.

Recommendation number 19 referred to the case of Mr. Armando Melgar Giron, whose individual guarantees had been violated because 16 rulings handed down in his favor in as many replevin actions had not been executed. The recommendation was that a time and date be set for the execution procedure.

Recommendation number 20 referred to the case of citizen Mario Parra Reyes, who was killed by a member of the Municipal Police of Tepeji del Rio. It was recommended that stepped-up action be taken to locate and arrest the agent in question, Mr. Miguel Angel Cabrera, and to expand the preliminary investigation in order to locate former police agents Filemon Ramirez Rubio and Leodegario Sancez S. and to prosecute them if they are found criminally responsible. It was also recommended that Ricardo Ibarra Duran, who at the time was an agent of the Public Prosecutor's Office, be investigated and suspended and that criminal action be taken against him, if appropriate.

Recommendation number 21 referred to the murder of Mr. Romualdo Garcia Alonso, in Amojileca, Municipality of Chilpancingo. Mr. Alonso was slain on 27 May 1990, and the arrest warrants for two men allegedly responsible for the killing were never executed. The recommendation was to step up the efforts to find and apprehend David Nava Gomez and Manuel Rodriguez Adame, and to guarantee security in the town of Amojileca.

Recommendation number 22 referred to the murder of Mr. Artemio Marcos Hernandez, who was killed on 19 May 1989; the formalities of the inquiry and the preliminary investigation were not conducted properly. The recommendation was that the commander of the Judicial Police in the Huasteca region [the states of Puebla, Veracruz, Hidalgo, Tamaulipas, and San Luis Potosi] submit investigation reports and that the inquiry begun by the agent of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Hueyutla be expanded.

Recommendation number 23 referred to the disappearance of the "Tuxpan." Since many irregularities and unclear points were found in the investigation into and search for the vessel, it was recommended that the investigation into the alleged sinking of the "Tuxpan" be reopened.

Recommendation number 24 referred to the case of Mr. Francisco Austria Cabrera, whose store and ranch in the municipality of Tepehuacan, Hidalgo, had been looted.

The preliminary investigation into the incident had been conducted very poorly. The recommendation was that another preliminary investigation be conducted, in accordance with proper procedure; that accountability proceedings be initiated to determine whether State Judicial Police agents had been designated to conduct the investigations; and that the responsible parties, if any, be identified.

Recommendation number 25 referred to the murder of citizen Elpidio Dominguez Castro. The preliminary investigation had been ordered and assigned so that arrest warrants could be issued for the suspects. One of the warrants has not been executed, however, apparently for no good reason. The recommendation was that the necessary actions be taken until the suspect is apprehended.

Recommendation number 26 referred to the case of Mr. Marcos Zacarias Patricio, who was killed in the Municipality of Santiago Yaveo, Coapan, Oaxaca. The preliminary investigation was ordered and assigned, and arrest warrants were issued for the suspects. Clear-cut negligence was found in the efforts to apprehend them. The recommendation was that the corresponding court orders be carried out immediately.

Recommendation number 27 referred to the rape of a female minor. The alleged perpetrator served at the time as assistant judicial warden of the Islas Marias Penal Colony. The crime was committed in the city of Mazatlan, Sinaloa. The recommendation was that the Federal District Attorney General's Office (PGJDF) declare itself incompetent for territorial reasons and that the proceedings be transferred to the Attorney General's Office of the State of Sinaloa so that it could continue the investigation promptly and take the necessary steps to bring appropriate criminal action.

Recommendation number 28 referred to the case of citizen Jose Valente Hernandez Flores, who was illegally arrested, charged, and beaten by Federal Judicial Police agents on the train called "El Burro" during its Ixtlan del Rio-Tepic run; the charge was a crime against public health. The recommendation was that criminal case 125/90 be dismissed, that accountability proceedings be initiated against the five police agents who arrested and beat him, and that they be fired, and, if appropriate, charged before an appropriate judge.

Recommendation number 29 referred to human-rights violations committed by agents of the Federal Judicial Police and agents of the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office against residents of the town of Aguililla, Michoacan. In light of the illegal arrests, searches without court order, solitary confinements and torture, seizures of assets, abuse of authority, and homicide that took place in the municipality on 5 and 6May 1990, the National Human Rights Commission recommended that criminal case 140/90 be dismissed and that the defendants be unconditionally released; that responsibility for the murder of citizen Agustin Perez Contreras be established within the group of Federal Judicial Police agents, after which the culprits would be fired and criminal action initiated against them; that an investigation be conducted to establish responsibility for the torture to which detainees were subjected during the operation in question; that the agent of the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office who took part in the incident be suspended and investigated; that the incidents that led to the death of three Federal Police agents and to the wounding of three others be investigated, with criminal action taken against whoever was responsible, and that the assets illegally seized from their legitimate owners be returned to them.

Recommendation number 30 referred to the violations of the human rights of the Nahua Indians in the communities of Embocadero and San Gregorio, municipality of Ilamatlan, Veracruz. In light of the illegal arrests, the improper exercise of public functions, the execution of arrest warrants, and various acts that constituted nuisances to the communities, it was recommended that: an exhaustive investigation of the facts be initiated to ascertain which public servants were responsible and to dismiss and charge those who failed to discharge their duty fully; the arrest warrants for the criminals who provoke violence in the region be executed; criminal action against the Indians on trial who are clearly innocent be dismissed; responsibilities be established and the civil-criminal lower-court judge of the Huayacocotla Judicial District be punished in accordance with the law.

Recommendation number 31 referred to the homicides that took place in Acapetlahuaya, Guerrero, where five individuals were slain on 15 November 1989. Since the suspects had not been found and arrested, the recommendation was that the arrest warrants be carried out and that the immunity of the municipal manager of the municipality of Canuto A. Neri, who was also a suspect in these crimes, be withdrawn.

Recommendation number 32 referred to the case of citizens Felix and Isidro Garcia Enriquez, of Zapotec descent; their trials began in 1988, but a verdict has not yet been handed down. The recommendation to the Public Prosecutor's Office was that it draw up findings immediately and to the trial judge that he return a verdict as soon as possible.

Recommendation number 33 referred to the case of citizen Juan Manuel Pantoja Melendez, who was found dead on Balanda beach, Baja California Sur, on 14 April 1990. In view of the unclear circumstances surrounding his death, the recommendation was that the preliminary investigation be continued until the facts are cleared up.

Of the 33 recommendations, the following have been carried out, and the corresponding documents in proof sent in: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, and 22, that is to say, 17 of them.

Recommendations 24 to 33 were sent between 21 and 30 November; to date a response to most of them has not been forthcoming. The feeling is that the authorities in question have reached the response deadline.

Recommendations 9 and 12 refer to the complaint file of a single individual, and both were sent to the attorney general of the republic. In the first, the Commission recommended that in keeping with legal formalities, an exhaustive investigation be conducted into the circumstances under which Antonio Francisco Valencia Fontes was arrested so that, if proper, the findings can be communicated to the judicial authority, which would then, if appropriate, resolve the judicial status in question. The recommendation was made after the National Commission found that the complainant's individual guarantees had been violated.

The attorney general of the republic's response to this recommendation was that his office was precluded from carrying it out "by virtue of the fact that the matter that concerns us is before an investigative judge, whose duty it is to order whatever investigations and other proceedings he deems appropriate."

In view of the refusal to comply with the above recommendation, Recommendation number 12 was issued. The National Commission asked the attorney general of the republic, in accordance with legal formalities, to dismiss criminal case 13/90 bis and, in connection with the case, to release unconditionally Antonio Francisco Valencia Fontes by virtue of the evidence under study, from which it can be gathered that his individual rights and guarantees have been violated. This recommendation was based on the provisions of the law that were cited to the attorney general in the body of the recommendation itself.

Regarding the second recommendation, the attorney general of the republic felt that his office did not possess, by strict rights, sufficient grounds to call for the dismissal and the unconditional release of the defendant and, therefore, that it was precluded from carrying out the recommendation, stressing that it was ultimately up to the investigative judicial authority to resolve the judicial status of the defendant.

Thus, the magistrate of the Unitary 15th Circuit Court, with its seat in Mexicali, will decide this issue by hearing on appeal the motion for release that Valencia Fontes has filed on grounds that evidence disappeared.

As far as the National Commission is concerned, the crux of this matter is the fact that Valencia Fontes, whether he is guilty or not (an issue on which the Commission did not and cannot opine), says that he could not have committed the crimes imputed to him on the day claimed and in Mexicali because he was under arrest in Mexico City. The following pieces of evidence, among others, corroborate this:

a) A notary's attestation stating that Valencia Fontes rented Room 411 of the Hotel Calafia on 21 and 22 November 1989, but not later. This document contradicts the Federal Judicial Police report, which says that he was arrested on 27 November of last year in the aforementioned hotel room.

b) A copy of his registration at the Hotel Calafia on 21 November 1989.

c) Newspaper spreads by various organizations reporting that Valencia Fontes disappeared on the night of 21-22 November of last year.

d) A record of face-to-face meetings between the defendant and the judicial agents who signed the 28 November report and allegedly arrested him. The agents contradict themselves seriously, thus providing grounds to assume that not only were they not present when Valencia Fontes was arrested but that they did not even draft the informational report, which they apparently signed without being aware of its contents.

Employees of the then General Directorate of Human Rights paid inspection visits to the city of Mexicali, Baja California and during their stay went to the Hotel Calafia there. In its books they found that the defendant stayed there on 21 November 1989 and left on the 22nd, without reregistering at a later date.

Now then, as the provisions of the Federal Code of Criminal Procedure now stand, there is no doubt whatsoever that the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office has the power to request a dismissal and that the trial judge must order one outright. The difference of opinion between the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic and the National Commission as to legality and justice in this matter prompted the Commission to study the matter more deeply and to propose changes in current legislation to the President of the Republic. The principles behind them are: the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office must remain empowered to abandon criminal action; the trial judge must be the one to decide whether or not this is admissible, after analyzing the evidence that the prosecutor submits to him, instead of being obliged to grant a dismissal, as is the case now; dismissal is not admissible on appeal. These principles are contained in the presidential draft reform of the aforementioned code; their purpose is to reinforce the respectability and autonomy of the Federal Judiciary.

The attorney general of the republic replied that he was accepting Recommendation 11 and, consequently, would order an investigation into the torture that was allegedly inflicted on citizen Ruben Oropeza Hurtado. There has been no official word so far on the conduct and findings of this investigation.

As for Recommendation 19, the mayor of Acapulco has submitted evidence that there are homes on the plots of land that are the object of lawsuits and, therefore, that it would be very difficult to evacuate them without causing violent incidents. Therefore, this Commission concurs that the rulings in the plaintiff's and complainant's favor should be carried out through a fair and reasonable compensation agreement between him and the authority in question. Until such an agreement is reached, this recommendation cannot be regarded as carried out.

With regard to recommendation 21, the constitutional governor of the state of Guerrero replied that concerning the execution of the arrest warrant issued for Manuel Rodriguez Adame, the State Attorney General's Office was legally precluded from taking this step because the first district judge, residing in Chilpancingo, had granted citizen Rodriguez Adame a federal-court amparo preventing the arrest warrant from being executed. The governor added that he would be ready to grant the Commission's request as soon as the aforementioned factor no longer applied. The Commission will look into this amparo to ascertain the conditions under which it was granted.

In recent days the Secretariat of Communications and Transportation refused to comply with Recommendation 23, which calls for the reopening of the investigation into the alleged sinking of the "Tuxpan"; it cites a series of technical arguments that outstrip this Commission's capacity to judge. Nevertheless, the Commission honestly feels that some aspects of this matter are not sufficiently clear, and therefore it will request an expert study, on which it will base its assessment of the technical aspects of the secretariat's reply.

In connection with Recommendation 27, the attorney general of the Federal District sent an official communication stating that criminal action had already been brought in this case. This National Commission feels that the purpose of the recommendation has already been achieved and, consequently, that the recommendation has been carried out.

As for Recommendation number 29, the case of Aguililla, Michoacan, the attorney general of the republic asked the Commission to send the file that was opened in connection with the investigation of this case, so that it could conduct the appropriate inquiries. Holding him responsible for the use to which the 22 documents in our file could be put, we sent copies to him, given the exceptional nature of the matter and the need for justice to be done.

Regarding Recommendation number 30, the violations of the human rights of Nahua Indians in the communities of Embocadero and San Gregorio, municipality of Ilamatlan, Veracruz, it was learned unofficially that seven of the 30 imprisoned Indians were released this past 30 November. This decision is consistent with one of the six recommendations that were made in this connection to the governor and to the chief justice of the Veracruz Superior Court of Justice.

e) The National Human Rights Commission has sent five nonaccountability documents to authorities. The first was sent to the constitutional governor of the state of Veracruz owing to false charges of torture lodged against the State Judicial Police. The complainant, citizen Juan Manuel Alvarez Rosales, claimed that he had been forced to swallow glass. The medical report issued by the National Nutrition Institute found, however, that the complainant's claim was completely untrue.

A nonaccountability document was sent to the constitutional governor of the state of Campeche in the wake of a complaint filed by citizen Olga Nohemy Herrera de Argaez, who in a telegram reported a series of irregularities that the warden of the penitentiary in the city of Campeche committed against an inmate there. Commission attorneys personally interviewed the inmate, Luis Fernando Argaez, the husband of the complainant, who commented on the infractions of the prison rules that his wife had committed. All of this information was corroborated by the prison authorities. Hence, the Commission felt that human rights had not been violated in this specific case.

The third document of nonaccountability was sent to the constitutional governor of the state of Chiapas. The complaint in question was filed by citizen Mateo Hernandez Vazquez, who claimed that his human rights had been violated because authorities at the "Cerro Hueco" Number One Prevention and Social Rehabilitation Center and the head of the District Jail in Yajalon, Chiapas had refused to give him medical assistance. The authorities demonstrated in timely fashion, by sending certificates and medical records, that the required care had been given to the complainant.

The fourth document of nonaccountability was sent to the attorney general of the Federal District, after citizens Dolores and Juan Linares Paredes filed a complaint over what they regarded as the faulty, irregular conduct of a preliminary investigation. The PGJDF demonstrated that the claims of the complainants were inconsistent and implausible. Since the complaint was found to be groundless, it was filed away as a matter that has been definitively concluded.

The fifth document of nonaccountability was sent to the mayor of Amatenango del Valle, Chiapas. The Mexican Institute of Religious Liberty had filed a complaint claiming that a group of 18 families that had changed their religious beliefs had, for this reason, been expelled from the town in which they were living, with the involvement of the civilian authorities. It was shown convincingly at the time that no government authority or public servant had taken part in such actions and that some of the families had even rejoined their community without incident.

The Work Program drawn up last 8 August established the goal of keeping up to date in examining, classifying, and ruling on the complaints.

In this regard, I can state that in spite of the large number of complaints received, which by themselves have overwhelmed the rudimentary human- and material-resources infrastructure of the office in question, the established goal has been met.

A case file was opened for each of the complaints; interviews were conducted with the complainants when possible and if the case warranted and allowed; the evidentiary documents were analyzed, and the objects of the complaints were classified as alleged violations of

human rights; the Commission declared itself incompetent, or the complainant and the official accused were asked for additional information so that the drafting of the original classification document would be well-founded.

The objective of the National Commission has been to decide the classification of a file and, consequently, to request a report from the authority being accused or to declare its incompetence in the matter within three working days. It must be acknowledged that this internal goal has not yet been achieved. This procedure currently takes an average of seven working days.

The situation described above has not been an obstacle to attending immediately to matters whose particular characteristics, such as imminent danger or risk, place them in the category of urgent or priority.

I should mention in particular that in addition to the complaints that have been filed and that entail the opening of a case file, the Commission attended 548 persons who requested advice and guidance directly (Annex 2). This is a very important aspect and underscores the guidance and legal-aid function that the Commission is discharging.

To round out the information on the complaints, I can report on the following aspects:

A) The complaints filed with the Commission were submitted in the following ways:

a) By letter: 1,091

b) Personally: 243

c) Through publication in the press: 9

In accordance with the initial indications of the complainants, the authorities who are allegedly to blame are: federal in 544 cases, and state in 599.

B) The Commission has served 159 social organizations, 18 human rights organizations, 23 peasant organizations, 22 labor organizations, 15 settler organizations, 13 party or civic organizations, eight organizations of parents and schools, four organizations of tenants, salesmen, and merchants, ten organizations of towns, three organizations of public institutions, three teamsters groups, four organizations of small landowners, eight organizations of Indian groups, eight employers organizations, three organizations of students and associations of professionals, three embassy organizations, and 143 miscellaneous associations (Annex 3).

C) During these six months of work, 1,521 requests for reports were submitted to authorities. Annex 4 lists the 301 authorities from whom information was requested, the number of times it was requested, and the number of replies that each one has made to date.

The following 12 authorities head the list in failing to submit the requested reports:

1. The Court of Santiago de Ixcuintla, Nayarit

2. The Civil-Criminal Lower Court of Juchitan, Oaxaca

3. The Civil-Criminal Lower Court of Tehuantepec, Oaxaca

4. The Office of the Attorney General of Baja California

5. The Second Criminal Court of Tehuacan, Puebla

6. The Second District Court in the State of Guerrero

7. The Office of Attorney General of the State of Durango

8. The Office of the Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice of the State of Mexico

9. The Civil-Criminal Lower Court of Matias Romero, Oaxaca

10. The Office of the Attorney General of Tamaulipas

11. The Office of Attorney General of the State of Oaxaca

12. The Office of Attorney General of the State of Veracruz

I should emphasize that some authorities have been particularly conscientious in submitting reports by the legal deadlines. Special mention should be made of the government of the state of Chiapas and of the Federal District Attorney General's Office.

There were two cases (the first district judge of Chihuahua and the Mexican Social Security Institute) in which the authorities stated that they felt that this National Commission did not have the jurisdiction to hear the complaints in question. Nevertheless, they later sent in the respective documentation, albeit after the expected delay.

D) In order to investigate complaints of human-rights violations, on-site work was done in the following states: Baja California, Campeche, Chiapas, Chihuahua, Durango, Guerrero, Guanajuato, Hidalgo, Jalisco, Mexico, Michoacan, Morelos, Oaxaca, Puebla, Quintana Roo, Sinaloa, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, Veracruz, and Yucatan. Thirty-three missions in all were carried out in these states.

E) The complaints classified under alleged human-rights violations mention 295 authorities (Annex 5).

F) Among the complaints that were originally regarded as presumably referring to human-rights violations, the following were the most common violations, which are subject to investigation to ascertain their veracity so that proper action can be taken:

1. Unlawful arrest 192 occurrences

2. Torture 180

3. Homicide, crime of 101

4. Abuse of authority 91

5. Threats 79

6. Assault and battery 75

7. False accusation 72

8. Defects of procedure 63

9. Delays in the administration of justice 46

10. Denial of justice 35

11. Delays in procedure 33

12. Dispossession 31

13. Early release 29

14. Alleged disappearance* 28

15. Entry and search without a warrant 28

16. Solitary confinement 25

17. Prison transfer 17

18. Violation of inmate rights 17

19. Improper rendering of public service 17

20. Failure to execute verdict or ruling 16

Fifty-four other violations are also mentioned (Annex 6).

*This number is independent of the number in the program of alleged missing persons, which is reported on later.

G) I should emphasize that, as noted before, 200 complaints could not be classified, that is to say, it could not be determined whether the actions reported constitute violations of human rights, because the documents are unintelligible or do not contain the data necessary to this end. The National Commission has asked all of the complainants in question, some more than once, to clarify and specify their complaint so that it can proceed.

From all of the complaints received and from the manner in which they have been processed, it can clearly be gathered that the National Human Rights Commission is a sort of "ombudsman." I use the term ombudsman because it has a specific judicial meaning. Fortunately, Mexican society and legal circles are beginning to accept and understand the term and what it entails. Consequently, and in contrast, it is clear that the National Human Rights Commission is not part of the Judiciary, the Public Prosecutor's Office, or the police, nor is it a super-court or super-branch of government. Rather, it is an ombudsman that receives a complaint, requests a report from the authority that has allegedly violated a human right, conducts an investigation, assesses the evidence in good conscience, and issues a recommendation. It is nothing more than a recommendation, because if it had coercive force, the Commission would no longer be an ombudsman but rather one of the bodies that I have indicated it is not.

The strength of an ombudsman is that his recommendation becomes public knowledge and is learned of by the entire society. If his recommendations were "secret," the authority would not feel inclined or pressured by public opinion to accept them. The ombudsman cannot renounce this principle of making his work public, because otherwise his existence would make no sense.

Many complaints are resolved, of course, without the need for a recommendation; they are settled during procedures and through mediation efforts. I have already reported on this.

Some complainants have stated that they would like their complaint processed more expeditiously. The National Commission would like to do so, but we must bear in mind that in most cases an investigation must be conducted and that if it does not clearly indicate that there has been a human-rights violation, the Commission cannot speak out. The Commission does so when it has sufficient evidence. Some investigations are difficult and complicated and, unfortunately, take time. Additional efforts will be made, however, to speed up our investigations.

The Commission conducts the investigations with its own staff. If it were dependent on some other body to conduct them, it would not be independent, nor would it have the assurance that they were being conducted properly. This principle is essential to the work of an ombudsman. The Commission has conducted all of the investigations, except one, which I will discuss later, by and for itself. If in any investigation the Commission should ever need any special help, it will request it and so inform the public.

IV. The Case of Dr. Norma Corona

The first investigation that the National Commission conducted was on express orders from the president of the republic: the murder of attorney Norma Corona.

The National Commission sent two attorneys to the city of Culiacan to consult court documents, reports, and records; to exchange views with state officials; to meet with citizens interested in shedding light on the facts, and in general, to gather as much information as they could.

National Commission officials spoke in Mexico City with representatives of various segments of the population of Sinaloa.

All of this material was used to draft a private report, which was submitted to the Attorney General's Office of the State of Sinaloa; it was not made public so as not to impede the investigations.

The National Commission was opportunely informed that one of the alleged perpetrators of the murder had been arrested and it was able to review the confession

that he had given, along with the other evidence that the two attorney general's offices, of the republic and of the state of Sinaloa, had compiled.

On 2 July, this National Commission declared "that the alleged murderer of Norma Corona, Jacobo Chavez Lafarga, alias 'El Caballo' [the horse], bears a striking resemblance to one of the existing composite sketches and, moreover, has confessed. Chavez Lafarga is a former Judicial Police officer of the state of Sinaloa. It bears mentioning that the motives for Norma Corona's murder (she was killed in the city of Culiacan, Sinaloa last 21 May) are not sufficiently clear yet and will have to be determined precisely during the corresponding criminal trial. The murder of Santos Humberto Arellano Bazan, 'Santillos,' the criminal who was another alleged perpetrator of the homicide, makes this more difficult but in no way impossible."

Sinaloa society has expressed its concern, which this National Commission shares, that the investigations into the murder of Dr. Corona have not been conducted as quickly as they should have been. The National Commission has indicated very clearly that in the case of Dr. Norma Corona, as in others, its function as an ombudsman has concluded and that it cannot take the place of either the Public Prosecutor's Office or the trial judge. The Commission is closely monitoring the course of the trial, however.

V. Status of Highway Checkpoints

During the first two months of its existence the National Commission received several complaints and protests over human-rights violations committed at highway checkpoints. The information was submitted to the president of the republic, who ordered them abolished.

VI. General Programs

As an ombudsman, the National Commission cannot limit itself to examining and resolving only specific complaints. Rather, it must undertake general programs that will substantially improve education, culture, and precautions regarding human rights, as well as propose programs and changes in legislation on human-rights violations. This is the raison d'etre of our general institutional programs.

VII. Program of Precedents

To undertake this program, which seeks to serve as a sort of "automated case law" of CNDH resolutions, the 33 recommendations issued so far and the responses from the authorities to which they were sent were entered into a computer. We can thus assert that the data bank is on line and up to date.

By way of key words that are being defined, whoever must write the first draft of a recommendation will thus know clearly what course of action has been taken previously: the nature of the complaint, the authorities charged, the procedures and investigations conducted, the specific recommendations formulated, and the authorities' response.

VIII. Computer Program

In order to fulfill this commitment, which is contained in the Work Program, the computer program called EXPEQ (Expediente de Quejas [complaints file]) was set up. Actually, it is a series of multiple-use programs.

The first logs and monitors all cases, from the time that they are filed until their conclusion.

The EXPEQ program enables data to be retrieved in the following ways: file number, name of complainant, name of aggrieved party, authority charged, state, and nature of the complaint. The data can also be cross-referenced.

The EXPEQ data bank contains all of the information that the CNDH has about the complaints filed so far.

IX. Program of Proposals for Possible Legislative Reforms

For several years there has been concern in the country over torture and forced confessions from detainees. Hence the desire to spell out rights during the preliminary-investigation stage and to reinforce these rights when the suspect is an Indian.

The National Commission gathered together the proposals and observations of a wide range of schools and bar associations, as well as studies by teachers and law departments, nongovernmental human-rights organizations, and various members of the Federal Judiciary. It invited several of these persons to set up a task force to write a preliminary draft embodying these studies, which were later submitted to distinguished jurists for their consideration. A document was thus submitted to the National Commission's council; it contains various reforms that were accepted, as well as several that had been set forth by the president of the republic in 12 points during the session held at the official residence of Los Pinos on 23 October.

The following are the most important aspects of this working material:

a) Extension of parole to those who justly deserve it and do not represent a danger to society;

b) Return to the original sense of the Constitution of 1917, to the effect that the Judicial Police must be subordinate to Public Prosecutor's Offices;

c) Confessions will have value as evidence only if they are made before the judge or the Public Prosecutor' Office, in the presence of a defense attorney or a person of confidence;

d) Measures to prevent the solitary confinement and blackmailing of detainees;

e) The right of Indians who do not speak or understand Spanish well enough to have an interpreter;

f) Improved legal arrangements that will provide fairer treatment during criminal proceedings for ethnic groups that have been excluded from the national culture. Thus, the court has an obligation to compile as much background information as it can in order to familiarize itself with and appreciate the personality and circumstances of the individuals and the acts involved in the commission of a crime, when such individuals belong to these ethnic groups;

g) Greater precision of terminology, which must be specific and clear in everything having to do with search warrants;

h) In cases of abuse in arrests, under the provisions of our Political Constitution, the presumption is that the individual was held incommunicado and, consequently, the statements thus obtained are invalid;

i) Return to the constitutional principle of the system of "free" evidence in criminal proceedings;

j) The decision that the Public Prosecutor's Office can request dismissal but that only the trial judge is empowered to rule whether dismissal is admissible or not, on the basis of the evidence submitted to him;

k) A ban on requesting dismissal on appeal, and

l) In order for this National Commission to best discharge the functions that the decree creating it assigns it, it is granted a legislative basis for requesting reports and documents from authorities and public servants, who have a corresponding obligation to furnish them.

The draft articles concerning Indians and ethnic groups were drawn up in conjunction with the National Indian Institute, which I would like to thank for its enthusiastic cooperation.

The presidential bill to reform various articles of the Federal Code of Criminal Procedure, the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Federal District, and the Federal Law of Responsibilities of Public Servants accepted the studies and working material that this National Commission had submitted to the nation's chief executive at his request.

X. Program for Information in Free Textbooks

The Secretariat of Public Education is more than willing to include a section specially devoted to human rights in free textbooks. To this end, it has set up a task force made up of the Undersecretariat of Elementary School Education, the Mexican Academy of Human Rights, and this Commission.

The group of teachers who will draft the texts has already been appointed. The plan is to use the texts at the three levels of basic education: preschool, primary and secondary school.

An insert is scheduled to be included in the free textbooks for the next school year.

XI. Program Concerning Crimes Against Journalists

Working meetings were held with representatives of the Union of Democratic Journalists, which had filed a complaint that 54 newsmen had had their human rights violated, in order to draft a methodology and list of priorities.

A joint decision was made to place the cases into four separate categories.

After the 54 cases were analyzed, an initial joint decision was made to remove two of them, since journalists were not involved, but rather two individuals who were working as security personnel at a newspaper.

It was found that in two other cases the complaints had never been filed, and they were thus stricken from the initial list.

Of the 50 remaining files, eight had been resolved, and thus the number of aggrieved parties was reduced to 42.

In each case a request for information was sent to the appropriate judicial authorities and to each of the institutions connected with the matter. So far the National Commission has received only eight responses, which is of profound concern to the Commission.

The following is a breakdown of the cases:

One case concerns a missing journalist. Thirty-five concern journalists slain between 1983 and 1989. One case concerns a kidnapped journalist. The remaining cases have to do mainly with assault and battery and threats.

XII. Program Concerning Persons Presumed Missing

On 19 September the National Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic set up their interdisciplinary task force to address this problem. The task force is made up 14 representatives of the PGR and five from the CNDH. This program is the sole instance in which the National Commission has requested help in its investigations, owing to the difficulties inherent in this issue and to the long-standing nature of most of the cases.

Various Mexican human-rights associations have offered lists with between 550 and 604 names. The great majority of these alleged disappearances took place in the 1960's and 1970's. The list of alleged disappearances in 1989 and 1990 includes 12 names, and one case, that of Sergio Machi, to which I will refer later, has already been cleared up.

The list of the UN Working Group on Forced or Involuntary Disappearances includes 217 individuals; four of the cases have already been cleared up.

The joint task force undertook two concurrent courses of action. On the one hand, it updated, reviewed, and

enlarged the files on hand, some of which contain completely inadequate information, and on the other, it began a detailed field investigation under a pilot program covering 24 cases, classified as follows:

- 14 cases in Chihuahua
- 4 cases in Jalisco
- 2 cases in the Federal District
- 1 case in Morelos one case in Baja California
- 1 case in Chiapas
- 1 case in the state of Mexico

Results were obtained in five of these 24 cases. Four of them were in Jalisco, where the alleged missing persons were found, alive and enjoying total freedom: Jose Alfredo Pena Ramos, Carlos Hermosillo Gonzalez, Ricardo Cervera Garcia, and Manuel Esparza Gutierrez.

In Baja California, the body of an alleged missing person was identified: Sergio Machi. The report on the first four cases was sent to the UN Working Group and was given wide publicity in our country. The report on the Machi case was not sent to the UN because it is not on its list, but it was sent to Amnesty International, which had requested such information.

These results are the fruit of two and a half months of work. Although such work is still in its infancy, it should be emphasized that this is the first time that there have been specific accomplishments in this field.

XIII. Program Against Torture

The "National Symposium Against Torture" was held from 15 to 19 October of this year; it included four committees made up of well-known social figures, leaders of nongovernmental organizations, and specialists in the field.

It was a many-faceted event in which, by and large, there was a consensus on fundamental points, which were embodied both in the National Commission's proposal and in the president's bill to reform the two aforementioned codes of criminal procedure.

A report on the symposium is being compiled and will be published so that the studies presented are widely publicized.

Concurrent with these activities, an adaptation of the play "Pedro y el Capitan" by Mario Benedetti was staged.

The films "Libres al Fin" and "Los Colores de la Esperanza," which were provided by Amnesty International, were also shown.

XIV. Program of Pardons

On 5 October 1990, the president of the republic issued a resolution pardoning citizen Gabino Juan Carrera, a Mazatec Indian.

This pardon marked the start of the third stage of the current administration's program of pardons, which was joined by the states of Campeche, Colima, Chiapas, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Jalisco, Michoacan, Puebla, Sonora, and Veracruz. During this third stage of the program 732 individuals were pardoned (Annex 7).

The Interior Secretariat and this National Commission were responsible for implementing this third stage.

XV. Interinstitutional Program of Early Release

The National Commission was involved in the interinstitutional group, which consisted of the Interior Secretariat, the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, the National Indian Institute, and state authorities, and the same attended 24 meetings of the Interdisciplinary Technical Councils. These meetings looked into the cases of people who were presumably entitled to early release under the Minimum Regulations Law. During this stage 1,086 convicts were given early release.

The program is designed to benefit Indians, peasant farmers, fishermen, the elderly, the sick, and men and women under the age of 30 whom personality studies show to be of minimal danger to society, as well as, in general, any individual whose precarious financial and social status precludes him from applying for release, even though he is entitled to it in accordance with strict standards of justice and equity.

This program includes the early-release subprogram, which concerns those cases that are referred to the National Commission and that the aforementioned interinstitutional group does not try to resolve.

A total of 131 convicted inmates have enrolled so far in the subprogram; their cases are being examined individually and in coordination with the General Directorate of Prevention and Social Rehabilitation. Also under study are the cases of seven individuals who are in the hospital sections of Federal District prisons because they are suffering from AIDS.

XVI. Program for the Country's Prison System

The Commission and the Interior Secretariat have formed an interdisciplinary group to visit various jails and to look into the problems of the prison system in Mexico so that they are qualified to make recommendations.

This program has just begun. The results are as yet meager, although as I have already mentioned, two of the recommendations during this half-year concern the conditions in La Mesa Prison in Tijuana and Palacio de Andonegui Prison in Tampico. This is one of the priority programs for the semester of activities that is just beginning.

XVII. Training Program

The purpose of this program is to raise the awareness of government officials and public servants about human rights and train them to protect these rights.

In coordination with the National Center of Municipal Development, a seminar was held for mayors "to persuade them to respect and safeguard human rights." The course for the 43 mayors of Tamaulipas began on 27 August in Ciudad Victoria.

The same seminar is scheduled for other states of the republic, in coordination with the National Center.

A training seminar for prison personnel was held from 26 to 30 November in cooperation with the General Directorate of Prisons and Social Rehabilitation Centers of the Federal District; it examined the evolution of human rights guardianship and new approaches to human rights in the field of health care.

As part of the subprogram called "Network of Human Rights Defense Committees," which was designed especially for organizations of producers with Indian members, a short course was offered on 6 September in Amecameca, State of Mexico, in cooperation with the National Indian Institute and the National Union of Autonomous Regional Peasant Organizations (UNORCA).

The National Commission realizes that the training program is among the most important if in the long run human rights are to be exercised better each day in Mexico. Therefore, efforts must be redoubled in this area and better and more modern means of communication must be utilized in order to expand these activities to reach as many authorities and public servants as possible.

XVIII. Program of International Relations

A) Through our Foreign Relations Secretariat the National Commission learned of 61 reports of alleged violations of the human rights of foreigners in Mexico; they were filed by eight embassies accredited in the country. Some of these reports match the ones that are part of the Complaints Program. In each case the National Commission requested information from the appropriate authorities and sent the data thus obtained to the Foreign Relations Secretariat so that it could consider them in formulating its reply.

B) Two working trips overseas were coordinated with the Foreign Relations Secretariat. The first was to the United States and included the cities of Washington, New York, Atlanta, Los Angeles, and San Diego; the second was to three European cities: Paris, Madrid, and London. In all cases contacts were established with governmental and nongovernmental organizations that are concerned about the issue of human rights, as well as with foundations, universities, and study and research centers that include human rights issues in their working programs.

XIX. Program for the Human Rights of Mexican Migrant Workers

The National Commission attended two events in border cities (Juarez and Tijuana), the first organized by the Chamber of Deputies and the second by the Senate of the Republic, to discuss the specific issue of the human rights of migrant workers.

Relations were established with Mexican-American groups in the United States that are concerned about defending migrant workers in that country. Among such groups are: the American Friends Service Committee, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the Association of Professional Hispanic Engineers, the Mexican-American Bar Association, the One-Stop Immigration and Education Center, the Friends of Mexico Foundation, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, the Migrant Worker Support Center, the La Mesilla Organization, the Mixteco Popular Civic Committee, and Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education.

Besides meeting the National Commission's commitment to look after Mexican migrant workers, these contacts have enabled a study to be conducted, as it now is, on the human rights of migrant workers. The study makes use of information from the Foreign Relations Secretariat, the Northern Border College, the Center of Information and Migratory Studies, and nongovernmental human rights organizations in the United States and seeks to provide a comprehensive diagnosis of violations of the human rights of Mexican migrant workers during their travel northward and on both sides of the border so that by learning about and publicizing such violations, which are of such concern to Mexicans, we can help to overcome them. The report is scheduled to be completed by the end of next semester's activities.

XX. Program of Relations With Domestic Organizations

A) The National Commission has relations with 80 domestic nongovernmental organizations that specialize in the human rights issue, to which the GACETA is distributed (Annex 9).

B) A cooperation agreement was signed with LOCATEL [expansion unknown] to provide information over the telephone about the National Commission and how to make use of its services.

A cooperation agreement was signed with the Federal District Attorney General's Office [Procuraduria Social del Distrito Federal] to hasten the processing of complaints in keeping with the province of each body.

An agreement was signed with the Center for Scientific and Humanistic Research of UNAM [National Autonomous University of Mexico] to support the startup of the Commission's Documentation Center. Cooperation agreements were signed with the Northern Border College and the Center of Information and Migratory Studies to document the aforementioned study on migrant workers.

C) A package of documents on the nature and functions of an ombudsman and on the possible creation of local human-rights commissions was furnished to the states that requested it.

XXI. Program of Studies and Projects

As soon as the Convention on the Rights of Children was ratified, a program to defend their rights was begun. The initial phase of the program consists of three parts: proposals to improve the Minors Guardianship Councils of the Federal District; the compilation of an annotated directory of 370 institutions in the metropolitan area that look after children and defend their human rights; and educational and consciousness-raising programs in defense of children's rights.

XXII. Program of Academic Events

A) A seminar entitled "Humanitarian Law and the Human Rights of Journalists," cosponsored by the Mexican Red Cross, was held on 26 and 27 October.

The issues addressed were: humanitarian international law and the legal protection of journalists; the human rights of journalists; and journalism in Mexico and human rights.

B) A roundtable on "Nationalism and Racism Versus the New Winds of Freedom" was held on 27 November. It was cosponsored by the Israeli Tribune and attended by officials of this group and members of the academic community.

C) The National Commission, in cooperation with representatives in Mexico of the UN, UNESCO, UNICEF, the OAS, the Latin American Institute of Educational Communication (ILCE), and the Mexican Human Rights Commission, held various events from 4 to 7 December to commemorate the 42d anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The following roundtables were held as part of them: "For a Pro Human Rights Culture," "Human Rights as International Guarantee," and "The Protection of Human Rights."

XXIII. Documentation and Library Program

Since we do not yet have room to install a documentation center and a library devoted to human rights, we have been unable to pursue this program as planned. We are in the initial stage of deciding on acquisitions and the classification and cataloguing system.

XXIV. Publicity Program

An effort has been made to tell Mexican society what the National Human Rights Commission is, what its legal status is, what its province is, and what matters it is legally precluded from intervening in. These are the reasons why the main officials of the National Commission have agreed on many occasions to be interviewed and to take part in radio and television programs.

For the same reasons the chairman of the National Commission published a series of nine articles in the newspaper EXCELSIOR.

As of 28 August the newspaper EL NACIONAL has provided weekly space for issues related to human rights; this has had a major impact on public opinion.

Among the prominent features of the TV publicity campaign can be mentioned:

two editions of the program "Nexos"; one week of the program "Enlace con la Comunidad" that was devoted entirely to this issue; two programs in the series "Hemisferios-90's," and one in the series "Luis Suarez en el 11."

It is a great pleasure to single out the weekly program "SEMANAL," which is devoted entirely to the issue of human rights, with the invaluable support of Radio Educacion.

XXV. Program of Publications

A) GACETA was established. It is the official organ for publicizing the activities of the National Human Rights Commission, and all of the recommendations are published in their entirety in it. It is published monthly, and five issues have come out: 0 to 4.

GACETA has had a press run of 2,000 copies per issue. There are no copies left of the first three, yet they continue to be requested; therefore, a decision was made to reprint those issues in the same number as in the first press run. Subscriptions to GACETA are free, and efforts are being made to distribute it among human rights institutions and organizations and educational institutions.

B) Seven titles in the "Folletos" series have been published: "Bilingual Edition (Spanish-Nahuatl) of the Rules of Procedure of the National Human Rights Commission"; "The Convention on the Rights of Children"; "Basic Documents on Torture"; "Basic Documents on the National Human Rights Commission"; "What Is the National Human Rights Commission?"; "Basic Documents. Bilingual Edition (Spanish-English)"; "Working Documents, Bilingual Edition (Spanish-English)."

Two pamphlets are at the printer's: "Records of the Forum: The Child, Reality, and Fantasy" and "The Human Rights of Mexicans."

C) The following titles have been published in the "Manuals" collection: "Manual of Basic Knowledge for Prison Personnel" and "Studies on Human Rights: National and International Aspects."

The "Manual on Human Rights" is at the printer's.

D) This first issue in the "Reports" collection is being published today.

XXVI. Evaluation

A punctual and accurate report has been given of what we have accomplished in these first six months of work,

under the work program made public on 8 August. All of the data mentioned in this report are duly detailed in its annexes.

We have also reported fully on those areas in which we were unable to meet all of the goals set, and we have cited the reasons.

I should also point out, however, that what was not accomplished was minor and that, in contrast, we were able to make faster progress than originally scheduled in other spheres.

It is clear from the statistics contained in this report and its annexes that a great many complaints were lodged against the Federal Judicial Police, especially its narcotics section. Some of these cases were urgent, because the lives or physical integrity of individuals were in danger. This was why the initial recommendations were directed to the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic regarding investigations that the National Commission had conducted into human-rights violations for which various members of the PJF [Federal Judicial Police] were allegedly responsible.

This National Commission cannot conceal the fact that during these first six months of activity the attitudes of authorities and public servants have varied widely. This is corroborated in the respective annexes. Attitudes have ranged from those who have facilitated our work by sending in their reports in timely fashion and accepting our suggestions for resolving the cases expeditiously, without our having to issue a recommendation, to those who have refused to respond to our requests for reports by not acknowledging the Commission's jurisdiction and placing every possible obstacle in the path of our investigations. There have been, of course, many different degrees of cooperation and noncooperation between these two extremes. Nevertheless, each day more and more authorities and public servants are cooperating with this National Commission.

As an ombudsman, the Commission represents a relatively novel experience in Mexican law and a new experience for the nation. Many officials and many members of society do not yet fully understand it. Nonetheless, as I have said, headway is gradually being made.

Some people of good faith have expressed concern that crime may rise if the National Commission devotes itself to defending criminals who could seek to go unpunished by turning to the Commission. Others have stated that the Commission's activities could create political problems.

As already indicated, the National Commission voices its opinion only as a mediator or arbitrator or issues a recommendation only as an ombudsman after having conducted an investigation and evaluated the evidence thoroughly, when it is as certain as humanly possible that it has all of the relevant information to say in total earnest that a human right has or has not been violated. Under no circumstances, absolutely none, is the Commission a suitable vehicle through which anyone could seek to get away with a crime. On the contrary, the Commission has reinforced the legal system by demanding that the law be enforced. Thus, if any authority or public servant has violated a right, and the Commission is certain of this, amends must be made and the guilty party punished.

The Commission's activities neither create nor foster any political problem. If a problem arises during the National Commission's intervention, it is due to a human-rights violation, to the outrage that this causes in society, and to society's demand for security and justice. Consequently, when the law is not being enforced, the National Commission will not be stopped by the argument that enforcement of it could cause a political problem. The political problem is actually being caused by those who violate human rights and fail to enforce the law. Of this the Commission does not and cannot have any doubt.

In issuing an opinion or making a recommendation, the National Commission bases itself solely on the information that is in the case file. No one, absolutely no one, can interfere with its independence of opinion, and I must state that no one, absolutely no one, has dared to do so or to suggest the result of an investigation. The autonomy of an ombudsman is not something that one discusses or comments on. It is either independent or it is not. This is either a fact or it is not. Civilian society is the sole valid judge of this.

During these months the National Commission has heard various objections to the legal framework that governs it. Some may be valid. No legal framework is immutable and static, all the more so when a new institution that can and must be cultivated and enhanced is involved. Experience, objective conditions, and our finest legal traditions will determine the modifications that this National Commission will undoubtedly undergo.

As an ombudsman, the National Commission must, as I have said over and over again, be apolitical and nonpartisan in order to work. We officials of the Commission have tried to act accordingly. I hope that we have succeeded.

Under this apolitical and nonpartisan arrangement, we are Mexicans who are concerned about our country and we want to discharge well the functions that have been entrusted to us. During these six months we have made an effort to meet this goal. The National Commission still has a very long road to hoe, and we know, as every Mexican does, that it is not without major obstacles.

The accomplishments have been summarized in this report. We are persuaded that we must redouble our efforts, and we are determined to do so. To work on the National Commission is more than just a job for us; it is also a cause in which we believe deeply. And now that you, Mr. President, have offered us, with all of your

support, an opportunity to serve our fellow countrymen in one of the foundations and purposes of existence, human rights, we will continue to act, for as long as we have this responsibility, as we have until now: with resolve, tenacity, and conviction.

The Chairman of the National Commission Dr. Jorge Carpizo

National Human Rights Commission

Board of Directors

Chairman: Jorge Carpizo; Council: Hector Aguilar Camin, Guillermo Bonfil Batalla, Carlos Escandon Dominguez, Carlos Fuentes, Javier Gil Castaneda, Oscar Gonzalez, Carlos Payan Velver, Cesar Sepulveda, Rodolfo Stavenhagen, Salvador Valencia Carmona; Technical Secretary of the Council: Luis Ortiz Monasterio; Executive Secretary: Rosario Green; Inspector: Jorge Madrazo; General Manager of Publicity and Training: Fernando de la Mora Bermejillo; General Manager of International Affairs, Studies, Projects, and Documentation: Maria Amparo Canto Gonzalez; General Manager of Guidance, Complaints, and Handling of Formalities: Jacobo Casillas Marmol; General Manager of Procedures, Reports, and Resolutions: Braulio Ramirez Reynoso; General Manager of Administration: Luis R. Gonzalez Perez; General Manager of Mass Media: Alfredo Otamendi Monsalve.

Related Human Rights Reporting

WA2301144991

For a recent Mexico City PROCESO report that surveys human rights violations, see the Mexico section of the 30 October 1990 Latin America DAILY REPORT, pages 15-20.

* Independence Questioned

91CA0053B Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish No 737, 17 Dec 90 pp 16-17

[Article by Rodrigo Vera]

[Text] "The red tape, subordination, lack of political, administrative and budgetary autonomy, and unaccountability to the population that marked its origins" are the major shortcomings that the National Human Rights Commission faces six months after it was created, say jurists Jorge Barrera Graf and Samuel I. del Villar in their study "The National Human Rights Commission and the Undivided Nature of State Power in Mexico."

Amid harsh criticism, Jorge Carpizo, the chairman of the Commission, submitted his first semiannual report on Thursday the 13th to President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and Interior Secretary Fernando Gutierrez Barrios in the Carranza Room at Los Pinos.

He reaffirmed that for the time being and in spite of "objections," his commission would remain outside the constitution, under the president, and not act to defend political and labor rights, which are the province of other authorities.

"Six months ago...I asserted that the defense of human rights is a serious business, a very serious business. Whether these were just idle or empty words or whether they have imbued our actions with meaning, society and you must also judge...The members of the Commission pledge to keep on working with enthusiasm, devotion, and total dedication," he said to Salinas de Gortari in his speech.

He added that the CNDH [National Human Rights Commission] has received 1,343 complaints in all, 841 of which were described as relating to human-rights violations, and that the authorities accused most often were: the PGR [Office of the Attorney General of the Republic], 171 complaints; the PGJDF [Federal Public Prosecutor's Office], 60; the General Directorate of Coordinated Services of Prevention and Social Rehabilitation, 29; and the offices of the attorneys general of the states of Mexico and Chiapas.

He said that the most common violations are: unlawful arrest, 192; torture, 180; homicide, 101; abuse of authority, 91; threats, 79; assault and battery, 75; false accusation, 72; defects of procedure, 63, and delays in the administration of justice, 46.

The report, which totals 400 pages with its annexes, adds that the Commission has made 33 recommendations, three of which were rejected by the authorities. One, in the case of Antonio Valencia Fontes, was ignored by the attorney general of the republic himself, Enrique Alvarez del Castillo.

Barrera Graf and Del Villar, researchers with the Institute of Juridical Research of UNAM [National Autonomous University of Mexico] and the Colegio de Mexico respectively, say that this case highlighted "the substance of the crisis" in which the Commission is mired: "the subordination of both the attorney general and the CNDH to the head of the Federal Executive Branch."

The researchers add in their study, sponsored by the Mexican Association for the United Nations and released this month, that the "fundamental requirements" for any ombudsman are: his "political independence" and his autonomy vis-a-vis the authorities responsible for human-rights violations, and that the fact that President Salinas de Gortari created the CNDH, which he placed under the Interior Secretariat, "undercuts these requirements completely."

"The Federal Executive Branch is the violator par excellence of human rights in Mexico," they assert.

Unveiled last 6 June at a ceremony in the National Palace, "the Commission was created under the pressure of mounting international attention to the widespread lack of protection for human rights in Mexico."

The investigators say that from its outset the present Mexican administration has tried "to do something about this lack of protection administratively" by creating the General Directorate of Human Rights, a branch of the Interior Secretariat. But the directorate "failed in its mission and was therefore abolished, and its resources were assigned to the new Commission."

They do not see much of a future for the CNDH either, inasmuch as "the backdrop to the lack of protection for human rights is the cancellation of the constitutional division among and the autonomy of the branches of government, which makes it impossible to assert the rights of the individual, the citizen, and society vis-a-vis the despotic or dictatorial power that is trampling upon them."

They say that the 76 executive posts on the Commission (organized in seven layers, on top of which sits Carpizo) make it "a large and costly bureaucratic apparatus...This design necessarily leads to red tape, delays, and ineffectiveness in substantiating the great majority of the population's complaints."

They assert in their study that "the higher the financial costs of its bureaucracy, the less its chance of financial autonomy and the less effective it will be in dealing with violations of rights by the branch on which it depends to cover its budget."

It even compares the CNDH to the Secretariat of the Office of the Comptroller General of the Federation, which was originally created to investigate and punish dishonest public servants but which has become a "selective means of punishment" for political purposes, thus aggravating the lack of protection for human rights. "This degeneration was the result of the chief executive's lack of political will to assert these values or of the impossibility of doing so in the absence of the required autonomy."

The Commission, they say, discriminates between complaints. It attends solely to those that have "significant political or publicity sponsorship." Most tend "to get lost amid bureaucratic red tape. This tendency is confirmed by the discretionary power that the Commission's regulations grant to the inspector (Jorge Madrazo) in deciding when to open the evidentiary period and how long it will last."

But the Commission's "most significant" limitation, the analysis continues, is its lack of jurisdiction in violations of political rights, a lack of jurisdiction that Carpizo again defended in his report.

"The National Commission is not competent to intervene in matters relating to the certification or administration of elections because: in order for the Commission to be successful in promoting, protecting, and defending the life, physical integrity, freedom, dignity, and legal security of individuals, it must not become involved in partisan politics, which would detract from its objectivity and impartiality in discharging its social function as an ombudsman.

"Moreover, under our country's constitution certain bodies are in charge of administering and certifying elections (the Federal Congress, Electoral Tribunals, and the Federal Electoral Institute). To replace or duplicate the powers of these bodies would not only encroach on their areas of responsibility but would also turn the Commission into a superbranch of government that would be above all legislative and judicial bodies in the country."

The jurists respond thus to Carpizo in their study:

"If his argument that it does not intervene in electoral matters because that function belongs to other bodies were to be followed through, it would have to refrain from intervening in the case of a human-rights violation by any government body by reason of that body's very existence. Under no circumstances is it the Commission's function to supplant the function of such a body, which is to exercise authority, but rather to recommend to it how it ought to exercise that authority under the law. Consequently, by intervening it would not be supplanting or duplicating an electoral authority but merely recommending how it ought to proceed in order to safeguard human rights.

"A corollary (of the CNDH argument)...is that in Mexico the right to elect the government is not inherent to human nature and that one can live as a human being without its being acknowledged and protected. This is preposterous in light of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and turns the modern democratic State into mere rhetoric serving as a framework for the Commission's efforts."

The study also scores the fact that the CNDH has no jurisdiction to intervene in labor conflicts unless individual and social guarantees are violated during them. In his report Carpizo argued that these were "judicial" matters that are not his Commission's responsibility.

The researchers reply, however, that "labor rights are unquestionably fundamental human rights guaranteed in Article 123 of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States and in international treaties on economic, social, cultural, civil, and political rights that the Mexican Government has signed. Labor rights are also unquestionably inherent to human nature; one cannot live a human life without them."

They then ask the Commission to defend "the complete catalog of rights of the individual, the citizen, and society."

To this end, however, Article 4 in the Commission's rules of procedures needs to be changed. It provides that the Commission "shall not be competent to intervene in the following cases:

- "In final verdicts and substantive judicial matters.

- "In labor conflicts in which there is an individual or collective conflict between the workers and an employer that is the jurisdiction of the courts. It does have jurisdiction in labor conflicts in which an administrative authority intervenes and in which individual and social guarantees have allegedly been violated.
- "In the certification of elections, a function that belongs to judicial bodies or local or federal congresses.

"It may intervene in the event that individual guarantees established in the constitution are violated during elections."

The study by Barrera Graf and Del Villar also calls on the Commission to report periodically on its recommendations through the mass media, "by summarizing the complaints received and their follow-up."

It states in conclusion that "the only constructive and lasting solution" that the CNDH has to its crisis is "to establish itself constitutionally, with political, administrative, and financial autonomy. Under these conditions the chief executive would no longer have to arbitrate between two bodies under his authority."

"The CNDH would evolve towards a true institutionalized ombudsman that would gear its work not to a superior in the hierarchy but rather to society, to public opinion, which ought to be the true audience and arbiter."

Carpizo does not anticipate such legislative changes, however. In the section of his report on "proposals for possible legislative reforms" he mentions other initiatives: confessions should have value as evidence only if they are made before a judge or the Public Prosecutor's Office, in the presence of an attorney or a person of confidence; Indians who do not speak or understand Spanish well enough should have the right to an interpreter; Judicial Police agents should be subordinate to the Public Prosecutor's Office. He also proposes measures to prevent the solitary confinement and blackmailing of detainees. In addition, he asks that a section on human rights be included in free textbooks.

Although he acknowledges that he has heard objections, "some of which may be valid," to the legal framework that governs the Commission, he replies:

"No legal framework is immutable and static, all the more so when a new institution that can and must be cultivated and enhanced is involved. Experience, objective conditions, and our finest legal traditions will determine the modifications that this National Commission will undoubtedly undergo.

"As an ombudsman, the National Commission must, as I have said over and over again, be apolitical and nonpartisan in order to work. We officials of the Commission have tried to act accordingly."

Belize

'Cooperation Agreements' Signed With Taiwan

FL2301164191 Bridgetown CANA in English 1546 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Belize City, Jan 23, CANA—A new bridge, improved electricity supplies, and assistance with agriculture are in the works for Belize, after the signing here of agreements with the Republic of China (Taiwan). Two "cooperation loan agreements" were signed in Belmopan Tuesday [22 January] by Prime Minister George Price and Taiwan's ambassador, David Hong.

U.S. $2.7 million is being provided for the construction of a bridge in Belize City. A Miami-based consortium has already started work. The Taiwanese will also make available a grant of U.S. $0.7 million to finish the bridge. A further U.S. $1.5 million loan is going to the Belize Electricity Board, to facilitate the purchase of a new 3.5 megawatt generator to improve supplies in Belize City.

At the signing ceremony, Prime Minister Price thanked Ambassador Hong for his government's assistance and cooperation. The agriculture help comes after a visit to Taiwan by Agriculture Minister Michael Espat. The first four of an eight-member team from Taipe arrived in Belize this week. They will be setting up their headquarters near Central Farm in Cayo district. Their main aim is to help improve the production of rice, feed crops, and vegetables. Seeds and other agriculture equipment will be shipped from Taiwan. They will also help set up a shrimp farming project.

The Republic of China pays the travelling costs and salaries of the experts, and they will live tax-free and pay no import duties during their two-year stay.

El Salvador

Authorities: FMLN Should Turn Over Prisoners

PA2301163991 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU 1800 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Manuel Pacas Castro has said that if the FMLN acts on its own it will be holding an illegal trial, which is a human rights violation. Minister Pacas urged the rebels to turn over the two prisoners to the constitutional courts and to try them under established laws. The Foreign Minister denied that the United Nations had accepted the FMLN as a belligerent group; therefore it has no legal authority to try the two rebels.

[Begin recording] [Pacas] The FMLN has never had any legal status in this country. This group has continuously violated the national laws; therefore the FMLN has no legal or moral authority to try the murderers. I think that the only thing left for the FMLN to do is to turn them over to the authorities. There is only one justice system here, not two. Therefore, these individuals must be turned over to the Salvadoran justice system.

[Reporter] You mean they should be turned over, no matter what?

[Pacas] Yes, they should be turned over even if there are deficiencies in the judicial system. The Salvadoran Government is trying to overcome these deficiencies with the cooperation of all Salvadorans. The accused persons must be turned over to the judicial system to be submitted to the corresponding judicial court. The First Court is the relevant legal body that is responsible for trying these individuals. Any person, Salvadoran or foreigner, who really knows what the legal system is all about, cannot participate in this mock-trial. A trial can only be held by the relevant legal authority.

If the Salvadoran Government has agreed to hold talks with the FMLN, it is only to find a peaceful political solution as soon as possible, to stop the bloodshed, and to avoid further destruction in the country. This destruction involves the assets of the Salvadorans; the infrastructures belong to the Salvadorans. This is why the government has agreed to hold a dialogue with the FMLN, not because they have a status of any nature whatsoever. They have been clearly identified—not only by our country, but also at the presidential summits—as an armed rebel group, whose actions are considered solely terrorists acts. I think that if they to try to hold a mock-trial for these persons, they will be violating the laws. They are not a legal authority, and much less do they have the moral authority to hold this trial.

[Reporter] How does the government define the trial to be held by the FMLN? What is your opinion on this?

[Pacas] That it is not a trial. Whatever it is, it is not a trial.

[Reporter] In this regard, what about the FMLN's belligerency which the United Nations has acknowledged? The United Nations acknowledged its belligerency because it is a group at war.

[Pacas] There has never been any acceptance whatsoever of the FMLN's belligerency by the United Nations or any nation. This is an armed rebel force that is disturbing the peace in our nation. The government has agreed to participate in a dialogue with the FMLN in order to bring them to their senses. [end recording]

The FMLN has issued an official communique stating that the courts are part of the Armed Forces and that it will never turn over the former rebels implicated in the case to the local judicial authorities or to U.S. authorities. According to the FMLN, Porfirio and Domingo—the aliases of the accused rebels—will stand trial to establish a precedent for the rebel forces and to establish a moral force that complies with international humanitarian law, according to the rebel communique.

President Cristiani also asked the FMLN to turn over the arrested rebels who are responsible for the crime to the

authorities in Chinameca, San Miguel Department, where a preliminary hearing is being carried out to try them in absentia.

Armed Forces Vow Not To Interfere in Elections

PA2401033791 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 19 Jan 91 p 9

[Text] The Salvadoran Armed Forces yesterday made a commitment to the political parties not to meddle in any way in the March electoral process.

The Armed Forces defined their responsibility and the attitude of their members toward the electoral process at a meeting presided over by President Alfredo Cristiani, who is also the Armed Forces commander in chief

Also present, in addition to the High Command, were the members of the Central Electoral Council and the general secretaries of the political parties, except for those of MAC [Authentic Christian Movement] and AD [Democratic Action].

At the meeting it was said that the Armed Forces are by nature apolitical and that, as a component of the government's institutional order, the Armed Forces are responsible for safeguarding the democratic way of life and ensuring that the people's will in choosing their leaders is respected and that they serve only for the period established by the Constitution.

Members of the Armed Forces must refrain from voting in military uniform and from showing support for or influencing others to support any political party.

Armed personnel will not be allowed near the ballot boxes, may not seize political material identified with the party name or initials, and cannot deny local party fellow supporters access to meetings.

Members of the Armed Forces may not systematically search or request identification from political party members in transit or inside facilities. They may not carry out administrative arrest orders issued against individuals for being members of a duly registered political party.

They are also banned from discriminating against any person or preventing the distribution of propaganda material of any duly registered political party and will refrain from showing preference while they are guarding the facilities of any political party, to avoid misinterpretations by other parties.

Above all, they are banned from making any public statements that may be interpreted as negative toward a party or political figure and favorable toward another and from appearing in newspaper photographs and in television videos along with political figures during their political campaigns.

15 Ayutuxtepeque Peasants Killed by Men in Black

PA2301212791 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] A total of 15 persons were massacred this morning by a group of unidentified persons wearing black clothes who attacked the victims in their homes, in the jurisdiction of Ayutuxtepeque. According to witnesses who survived the massacre, the attackers asked for money, trying to make it look like a robbery.

Twelve of the 15 peasants killed belonged to the same family, while the others were closely related to them. According to inhabitants of the area, the attack was carried out by a group of individuals who were wearing black uniforms, had their faces covered, and carried firearms and knives.

Eleuteria Aragon, 80, mother of some of the people massacred, attributed her survival to the fact that her first instinct was to leave her humble dwelling.

[Aragon] "I was lying down when all of a sudden I heard the commotion.

[Reporter] "How many children did you lose?

[Aragon] "They killed three of my girls, one boy, three grandchildren [words indistinct].

[Reporter] "That means you are left without a family, does it not?

[Aragon] "God help us."

Two children, Humberto, 13, and Eugenia, 6, also survived this massacre. It was like a nightmare for them. According to their statements, the armed individuals arrived in El Zapote at midnight yesterday.

[Reporter] "How did you escape being killed?

[Child] "When I saw that they were shooting at my mother, I hid under my sister's bed. When I saw them hit her, I saw the blood streaming down.

[Reporter] "Did they not see you?

[Child] "No. I later left our house and went to the other house, where they had tied one of my uncles to a chair. They shone their flashlights but they did not see me.

[Reporter] "How many men were there altogether? Do you think there were a lot or a few?

[Child] "I saw quite a few."

Members of the nongovernmental Human Rights Commission arrived at the scene of the incident. They said they were suspicious about how the crimes were committed.

[Unidentified human rights delegate] "We are going to inspect the bodies, because we think that there are signs

that the persons were killed with knives. There are persons whose necks were slit; there was a pregnant woman among them. We will announce our position subsequently regarding this massacre.

[Reporter] "Were shots fired?

[Delegate] "Shots were fired."

This can be considered one of the worst tragedies to have occurred in which an entire family was killed. It was confirmed that there were nine women, one who was pregnant, and six men of the Aragon family who were killed early today and were identified by the respective authorities. An investigation of this condemnable crime will be carried out.

Cristiani Announces Credit System for Workers

PA2301202291 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 22 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani, over a radio and television network last night, announced that the credit system for workers aims to meet the credit needs of the entire country's labor force.

The president said that the law's goal is to ensure that public, private, and municipal workers have access to credit. It is also designed to meet the credit needs of small-scale producers and businessmen from rural and urban areas and thus protect and improve their activities by offering them genuine opportunities to advance within a democratic society.

This bill reflects a constitutional mandate, which is specified in Article 46, on the state's obligation to promote the creation of worker-owned banks.

Cristiani added, moreover, it is also in keeping with the constitutional mandate of promoting cooperativism by establishing worker-owned cooperative banks, whose economic and social doctrine is to promote human solidarity and democratic organizational skills in their management.

The president said that these banks will be established as anonymous cooperative societies to serve as financial intermediaries exclusively for member workers and to collect funds with the sole purpose of meeting the workers' most pressing credit needs.

They will grant credits for the following reasons: a) loans to cover emergencies; b) loans for general family needs; c) loans for the establishment of small family workshops and businesses; and d) loans for home repair and expansion. Cristiani underscored the need to amend the current Rural Credit Law.

Guatemala

Energy Minister Foresees No Fuel Shortage

PA2301185391 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The government again guaranteed today that there will not be a fuel crisis in Guatemala because of the Persian Gulf war. Energy and Mines Minister Minister Carlos Leonel Urtarte Castro explained why:

[Urtarte] "A ship has already arrived. We were told that another ship is currently on the way, so the supplies keep increasing. This process is ongoing. At one point, the process came to a halt and our possibilities reached their limit, however, another ship is on the way. It is expected to arrive on 25 January.

[Reporter] "How much is it bringing?

[Urtarte] "A ship is arriving today with 115,000 barrels.

[Reporter] "Where is it coming from?

[Urtate] "Venezuela. [Passage indistinct] and another one from Venezuela.

[Reporter] "[Question indistinct]?

[Urtarte] "You can see that we are maintaining a constant supply of crude, and this has not ended because of the Persian Gulf crisis. This means that the deliveries will keep coming anyway, and hopefully, at lower prices. The ships came at the same price set three or four days ago; there has been no change. Sometimes the diesel and gasoline are a few cents cheaper, but in other ships the diesel and gasoline are a little more expensive. The truth is that there has been no change in the prices since the time those ships were loaded.

[Reporter] "[Question indistinct]?

[Urtarte] "The new shipments will come at lower prices."

The energy and mines minister was also asked about the possibility of deregulating the price of fuel.

[Urtarte] "The idea of price deregulation is that the government will collect a certain amount of money as tax from anyone who brings in fuel. This will be a (?fuel tax) that is to be collected from any company, not just three or four companies. The companies should go by the law of supply and demand. Each company can bring the fuel from wherever it sees fit. That way the prices will be totally deregulated so that any company that can buy cheaper oil can come and sell it at a cheaper price.

"To be sure, this means we must ensure that a company will not just enter the market once and then leave it because the other companies that lost out will not want to bring in oil. The companies must have storage

capacity and infrastructure to provide the guarantees that it will really stay in the market. We could have the case that someone will have the best intentions of selling, say, 500,000 barrels but just for that time. After that, we would not be able to find the person.

"Therefore, this is part of a process of deregulating the price of fuel. We are lifting restrictions as to where the oil can be obtained from so that we can really have a supply and demand market, and not just at a national but at an international level."

A group of Venezuelan oil experts will arrive in Guatemala in late January or early Februry to conduct drilling and exploitation operations on oil wells, it was officially announced today. Minister Urtarte gave an overall asssessment of the level of interest in exploiting Guatemala's subsoil.

[Urtarte] "There are many companies interested in Guatemala's subsoil, chiefly small companies that operate worldwide.

[Reporter] "Will an agreement be signed [words indistinct]?

[Urtarte] "That is where we will begin. The law imposes some restrictions that discourage investors from coming to Guatemala. Our idea is to open this field and analyze the law on hydrocarbons to motivate investors to come. Right now, you can see that there are not too many companies asking for oil permits. "That is why I said that this is the first step, and that is why some Venezuelan experts are coming for 10 days. They will bring the text of Venezuela's oil and mine laws that have been made to compare them with other oil and mine laws and our own laws, as well as with our own constructions, projects, and ideas. Then we will draft a law that can motivate companies that deem it worthwhile to come here. Presently, all of our territory is not filled with constructions.

"Quezaltenango is a very rich geothermal region. There are proposals made by Italian Government enterprises. Other companies also want to work in the geothermal sector, Venezuela included."

Honduras

Armed Forces Deny National Troops in Gulf Area

PA2301233391 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 23 Jan 91 p 11

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Napoleon Santos Aguilar, director of the Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate, described as "mere speculation" U.S. and Honduran newspaper reports that the Honduran Armed Forces are reinforcing multinational troops that are fighting in the Persian Gulf against Saddam Husayn's government.

Santos Aguilar categorically stated that "the Armed Forces have not sent nor will send contingents to the Saudi desert because we are unable to face such expenses."

Santos Aguilar thus countered radio reports yesterday stating that 37 Army reservists had been called up to be sent to the Persian Gulf.

The report stated that reservists from El Aguacate Base, Olancho Department, had departed Tegucigalpa on a Honduran Air Force C-130 transport.

"That is false, we are not sending our soldiers to fight in Saudi Arabia. The Hondurans that are over there are with the U.S. Army, and their own relatives have reaffirmed this," Santos Aguilar said.

LA TRIBUNA asked the military spokesman if he had an explanation as to why U.S. newspapers and magazines include Honduras among the 26 countries that comprise the anti-Iraqi coalition and he replied "that is inexplicable."

"We have approached the U.S. Embassy in Honduras to have them explain the situation to newspapers such as THE MIAMI HERALD and other publications that have included the Honduran flag among the multinational forces," the officer said.

Santos Aguilar believes that the only logical explanation is that Honduras, as a UN member and as a signatory of the UN Charter, backed the resolution that authorizes the use of military force to expel Iraq from Kuwait.

He added that there also may be confusion in statements issued by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas to the effect that Honduras could send a contingent to the Persian Gulf to show its solidarity with other multinational forces.

This was only a statement, however, because the Armed Forces commander in chief has never received orders to send Honduran troops to the Middle East to fight, Santos Aguilar concluded.

Government Suspends Fuel Rationing Measures

PA2301173891 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 22 Jan 91 p 2

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Due to the drop in the international market's oil prices and given that there are enough reserves, the government decided yesterday to suspend the rationing of fuel decreed a few days ago.

The government decision was announced yesterday by Economy Minister Ramon Medina Luna, who said that rationing 10 percent of the fuel is no longer justified because "we have a very high level of reserves."

He said that the reserves currently stand at 450,000 barrels of oil, both crude and refined, which is approximately 18.9 million gallons.

He also announced that 220,000 barrels of crude oil will arrive from Mexico and an additional 110,000 barrels will arrive next week, so "the rationing measures become unnecessary because we have enough reserves."

Asked about a reduction in the fuel prices, based on the fact that the crude oil price in the international market dropped below the $20 mark, he said it depends on the price which the country paid.

"At this moment (yesterday at noon) we are issuing instructions to the refinery and the distributors so that they supply the gas stations as they normally would, and we will ask the people to make rational use of the fuel," the official said.

He warned that if the crisis worsens the government may have to adopt additional measures, including the rationing of fuel. He added that the state will use less fuel.

The government authorities recently decreed the rationing of 10 percent of the oil by-products, which became scarce and thus affected consumers.

* Infant Malnutrition, Causes Reviewed

91CA0049A Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 29 Nov 90 pp 52-53

[Text] Children are said to be the future of nations. Nevertheless, in Honduras 70 percent of these youngsters are slowly dying of malnutrition caused by single crop production, poor land distribution, and ignorance prevailing among the population.

Thousands of children under five are observed at this early age caught in a desperate struggle for survival. Malnutrition and disease have developed in their little bodies, wiping the smiles off their faces and leaving, instead, feelings of anxiety.

The situation is more than tragic; but authorities, primarily the government, are doing little or nothing to rehabilitate these children or to prevent others from succumbing to a similar predicament.

Although the majority of them can no longer speak, because the fatal disease has caused a loss of memory, within the nutrition rooms of hospitals one hears endless wailing from their mouths, like pleas which do not elicit a response.

The eyes of these children reflect only sadness. Although they are suffering from an irreversible disease, their young age prevents them from realizing that they are stricken with severe malnutrition.

The disease makes them vulnerable to diarrhea and respiratory difficulties, mental retardation, stunted growth, weight loss, pallor, and glittering and inflammed eyes, which also occurs in the legs. Moreover, their hair experiences a change in color.

According to data provided to EL HERALDO by the head of the Institutional Food Area of the Ministry of Health's Nutrition Division, Edna Troncony, malnutrition is a problem "with multiple causes."

She claims that the lack of land for production has had a negative effect on suitable food for children under age five, 57 percent of whom (according to studies) suffer from some degree of malnutrition.

Nevertheless, physicians specializing in malnutrition at the Teaching Hospital contradict Troncony, maintaining that 70 percent of the children are suffering from that disease. They add that, this year, the disease has increased substantially, owing to the inflation triggered by the effects of the structural adjustment imposed by the present government.

The possibility that these children will be rehabilitated is quite remote because, when anyone provides them with food, they are not the only ones to consume it. Other family members, who are unquestionably also victims of malnutrition, also eat this food, according to the doctors.

The clinical forms of the disease are known as: marasmus, referring to a serious caloric malnutrition, and waschiocor, which results from an extreme protein deficiency in the diet.

According to Troncony, these strains are brought on by the unavailability of food, caused by unemployment, low wages, the high prices of products, and the lack of land.

However, malnutrition has other aspects. On the one hand, there are educational messages with positive and negative consequences. Troncony claims that foods such as Acti Malta and fritters are not nourishing.

The increase in the [numbers of individuals suffering from this] disease is also influenced by family size, illiteracy, and the biological use of foods. In other words, [the disease spreads] when the body fails to make use of the nutritional value of food because the person is suffering from diarrhea or respiratory infections, which are associated with malnutrition, she notes.

Since there was no official responsible for making statements, EL HERALDO talked with several physicians in the Teaching Hospital's Mother and Child Unit, who claim that malnutrition is caused by "poor land distribution."

"Why poor land distribution?" the doctors were asked. They replied: "Those with a plot of land lack the tools for working on it; then they sell it to someone who has more."

Nevertheless, in Honduras certain departments exist such as: El Paraiso, Copan, and Choluteca, where a single crop predominates; one that is deficient for the nutritional diet of the residents.

One of the physicians queried remarked: "Single crop production does not meet all of the children's needs and

requirements. They are fed with a certain nutrient, and fail to consume other priority foods; although those eating considerable amounts of corn might not suffer from marasmus or waschiocor, because that grain is quite complex in vitamins."

He declared that "ignorance, in other words, illiteracy, which represents a rate of 80 percent nationally," is another factor contributing to malnutrition in children ranging from one to five years of age.

He claimed that the dread disease has been increasing at a fast rate this year, because of the negative effects "of the economic measures, which have caused inflation in food prices."

The doctors at the Teaching Hospital are conducting the necessary studies to determine the percentage by which this disease has increased thus far this year. Nevertheless, they comment: "Inflation in the price of products represents the most serious repercussion which is why malnutrition has been on the rise in public hospitals."

It is reported that about 50 children are confined in the Nutrition Room of the Mother and Child Unit, suffering from the disease, and that most of them are natives of El Paraiso, in La Paz, and the vicinity of the capital.

They include Bessy Dalila Morazan, only 18 months old, who can barely speak. Her weakness allows her only to open and close her eyes constantly, while her little body remains motionless.

She and her roommates are, for the most part, suffering from grade three, that is, severe malnutrition. They are waiting there for someone to lend them a compassionate hand, and to serve as a warning in terms of the urgent need to protect our children.

Nicaragua

Ortega, Libya's Al-Qadhdhafi on Persian Gulf War

PA2401015491 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 23 Jan 91 pp 1, 5

[By Sergio de Castro]

[Excerpt] Tripoli— The Persian Gulf war will result in irreparable damage to relations between future generations of Arabs and Americans, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi warned in an exclusive statement to BARRICADA.

Al-Qadhdhafi issued an appeal for the war to stop and the coalition troops led by the United States to withdraw from the Arab world. "Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia are Arab countries and we can resolve the problem among ourselves," he said.

The Libyan leader gave the statement following an interview with former President Daniel Ortega in a bedouin tent in the desert on the outskirts of Tripoli, amid an atmosphere of great cordiality which contrasted with the cold that prevails at night this time of the year.

Yesterday Ortega concluded a three-day visit to Libya to exchange views with that country's leader on the Persian Gulf crisis.

Since 17 January, when the United States launched the first attack against Iraq, former President Daniel Ortega has met with Soviet leaders, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He has also contacted Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, Indian Congress President Rajiv Gandhi, and King Husayn of Jordan.

Last night he arrived in Strasbourg to meet with Claude Cheysson, member of the French Parliament.

Libya reasserted its opposition to the foreign troops' presence in the Gulf and demanded the immediate withdrawal of military troops from countries that comprise the coalition led by the United States.

Libya's position was reasserted by the nation's leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, following a meeting with former President Ortega, which lasted almost two hours.

The meeting was part of the efforts exerted by the Sandinist leader to sponsor a cease-fire in the Gulf and create the necessary conditions to allow a peaceful resolution of all the current conflicts in the Persian Gulf.

Contacts and initiatives endorsing a cease-fire in the Gulf have been recently increased, including an appeal by Pope John Paul II.

Ortega's efforts began in November, with his first visit to Iraq, where he talked with President Saddam Husayn.

He later visited different countries in the Middle East, Europe, North America, and Asia to sponsor a peace proposal that outlines "solutions to all the problems that concern the parties involved in the conflicts," he explained to BARRICADA.

Ortega visited Baghdad on three occasions—most recently barely three days before the war began—to ascertain the Iraqi leaders' views on the Persian Gulf crisis.

Following meetings with Husayn on two occasions, Ortega stated that he is fully convinced that Iraq advocates a peaceful resolution of the conflict. [passage omitted]

Sandinist Ramirez: Possible Alliance Unsuitable

PA2301194591 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 22 Jan 91 p 6

[By Xavier Reyes Alba]

[Text] Dr. Sergio Ramirez, head of the Sandinist bench at the National Assembly, has said that exchanging the current "general understanding" for a new "alliance that could be

called a co-government" suits neither the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] nor the government.

The Sandinist politician said: "It does not suit us to lose our identity as an opposition party that has its own banners, aspirations, and political guidelines," and "it does not suit the government to share responsibilities."

An article by Dr. Rafael Solis published recently on the op-ed page in BARRICADA rekindled in the Sandinist camp the debate on FSLN-government relations and the FSLN's status as an opposition force.

Ramirez said that "co-governing means that two political parties or forces—one being in the government and the other in the opposition—agree on a given political program that implies the sharing of conciliatory interests. Once approved by the co-government, that political program is implemented and the two forces share responsibilities."

He added: What exists now is a general political agreement aimed at finding points of coincidence in matters that have to do with national stability.

This "general understanding," which many view as a virtual alliance, was put to the test recently during the elections for the new National Assembly leadership.

The Sandinist backing for the ticket headed by Alfredo Cesar was "obviously a matter negotiated by the FSLN and the government," Dr. Ramirez stated.

In referring to the sector of the National Opposition Union bench that backs Virgilio Godoy, Ramirez quipped: "It takes two to tango, but it takes three to tango this tango."

According to Dr. Ramirez, they have made "many fruitless efforts" to approach this group. He recalled two determining moments in the Sandinist decision to back Cesar: the unanimous support (decided on by the three groups) given to the national agreement secured in October, and "the big ambush" [referring to a major budget cut applied to the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) by the National Assembly] against the EPS when its budget was being discussed.

Ramirez said that since the Sandinist bench is a minority it cannot expect to control the Assembly leadership, adding: "The idea was to direct our support to produce a given leadership."

The decision was to vote in favor of the progovernment bench. Dr. Ramirez explains it this way: "The Sandinist Front had to vote for the group that responds to the interests of the government, with which we have been executing a stability agreement. A pull away from the general framework to support a faction that is against the national agreement would have obviously and unjustifiably introduced a splinter element."

Ramirez explained that participation in "a three-way game" by supporting certain individuals, regardless of the group to which they belong, would not have been difficult for the FSLN, "but it would not be playing fair with regard to the general strategy."

[BARRICADA] Cesar's political behavior has been irregular, and most of the time, for example during the October riot, he placed his personal interests ahead of those of the government. What guarantees are there that Cesar will respect the alliance made evident by the voting for the National Assembly leadership?

[Ramirez] This matter has to be analyzed as the agreements are implemented. This is an understanding, not an alliance, and therefore analyses must be continuous. There is no carte blanche for either side.

[BARRICADA] What factors could break the alliance?

[Ramirez] Noncompliance with the transition agreements and the national agreement.

[BARRICADA] Can we speak of parliamentary co-leadership?

[Ramirez] There is no need to negotiate that because the Assembly's statutes establish that minority parties or opposition forces are entitled to leadership posts based on electoral force percentages. The Sandinist bench cannot acquire commitments if they do not suit the general strategy of the Sandinist Front.

Dr. Ramirez said that the First FSLN Congress must resolve first what the FSLN goals are and must "analyze the past, but without staying in it."

The idea, Dr. Ramirez said, "is to define our political role in Nicaragua and to do something very simple and very necessary: regain power."

Dr. Ramirez said that the Sandinists need to analyze their political program and their methods of working with the masses to recover their trust. The Sandinists also have to review their statutes and, especially, to hold "an open debate and a broad exchange of ideas."

Dr. Ramirez said he is not afraid of debates and thinks that they will strengthen Sandinist unity in the framework of "diverse positions."

Ramirez does not think that anyone, including the party, will direct or control the debate. "I believe," he said, "that the most profound, mature, and reasonable ideas will win over others that may emerge in the heat of inspiration and political discussions."

According to this Sandinist leader, "the FSLN is a party that is here to stay," and it must create a democratic climate to promote its reactivation.

Ramirez said: "I agree that in the congress we must work to secure a mid-term minimum program, but before that we must engage in significant discussions. A minimum program cannot be improvised. It should be based on an understanding founded on the party's strategic guidelines."

Ramirez said that it is too early to speak about divisions or tendencies (Pragmatists, Social Democrats, Radicals) within the FSLN. Ramirez said such talk is the result of "initially impassioned attitudes" that will fade "as the debate moves into the essential issues."

[BARRICADA] What should that minimum program contain?

[Ramirez] In my opinion, the fundamental objectives of the congress are the approval of a minimum program that would include democratic norms for the internal functioning of the FSLN and the strengthening of FSLN unity.

Ramirez said: The FSLN is going through "some sort of identity crisis" following the defeat in the elections, and "this is logical. This is a party that has no experience as a civil opposition party."

Ramirez said that circumstances have changed not only because of the collapse of the socialist camp, but also "because the road that the revolution followed led us to a situation in which we find ourselves as an opposition party."

Ramirez noted: "This is no political surprise to me, because we established that possibility in the Constitution: We consolidated political pluralism, not as a tactic but as something established in the Constitution drafted by the Sandinist Front."

[BARRICADA] Do you view the FSLN of the future as a party of cadres, of masses, or as an electoral party?

[Ramirez] I view it as a party of cadres and masses, and as an electoral party led by capable cadres. I think that if we were a party of cadres only, or a party with influence on mass organizations with no capability to appeal directly to the people for their votes, this would be a contradiction that could not be resolved.

[BARRICADA] How do you think leaders should be chosen?

[Ramirez] I do not think that choosing the leaders means beginning to find a solution. I think that their selection should be a consequence of processes established in the program by agreement.

[BARRICADA] Is there the possibility of a split in the party?

[Ramirez] I see none. If there were a sign in that direction, I would be the first one to denounce this danger and the first one to struggle against it with all my force. However, I do not see that danger. It is logical to find different ideological tendencies within Sandinism. Homogeneous thinking, as if we all were connected to the same wire with the same voltage, would scare me. That would be sad.

Panama

Arnulfists Angered by Endara-Arias Agreement

PA2301212891 Panama City EL PERIODICO in Spanish 23 Jan 91 p 1

[Text] The disclosure of an agreement signed on 16 January between Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Endara, as representatives of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and the Arnulfist Party respectively, has caused great indignation among the rank and file of the Arnulfist Party. They have stated that, according to the distribution agreed upon, the mayors' offices in the cities of Colon, Arraijan, La Chorrera, and Capira will remain in the hands of the green star [symbol of PDC] party.

According to the document, the distribution of the mayors' offices has been designated by assigning the mayor's office of Colon to the PDC for the first two years after the signing of the appointment decree. This office will then be placed under the control of the Arnulfist Party unless a new agreement between the concerned parties is reached. The mayors' offices in Arraijan and La Chorrera will be in the hands of the Arnulfists for one year and will later be turned over to the PDC. According to the agreement, the offices of corregimiento representatives will be evenly distributed.

On 22 January, a group of the Arnulfist Party rank and file went to the Presidency to obtain a response from Endara, but so far the president has been unable to face the indignation of the members of his social base of support, who said that "they observed with anxiety how the president is letting the PDC take away the power he legitimately won in the elections."

PRD Denounces Government's 'Judicial Terrorism'

PA2301230391 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 23 Jan 91 p A-3

["Communique" issued by the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) at the National Legislative Assembly in Panama City on 15 Janauary]

[Text] The PRD bloc in the National Legislative Assembly, the sole opposition party represented in the Panamanian Assembly, reiterates its protest of the political persecution against all forces that oppose the current puppet regime.

A little over a year after the U.S. invasion, the puppet regime continues its stifling campaign of political persecution against all opposition sectors as well as our fatherland's movement of labor and the masses. By way of example, we point out that last December the disgraceful Law 25 of 1990 was approved authorizing the dismissal of the leaders of labor unions and state employee associations.

It has been over a year and there are still a large number of political prisoners, people seeking refuge in embassies, and exiles; goods have been seized and news has been

blocked. Political persecution has been particularly fierce against the leaders of our party, and we, the only opposition legislators, have not been spared for we too are the victims of so-called "judicial terrorism" which takes the form of rigged penal or administrative suits designed to silence us, as well as the other leaders who oppose the puppet regime.

As part of this campaign of "judicial terrorism," PRD Legislator Elias Castillo has been held in preventive custody since 4 January. Our colleague Castillo was the victim of bitter judicial persecution that was publicized and led by Guillermo Cochez, current Panama City mayor and legislator of the Christian Democratic Party, who also happens to be Castillo's political opponent in his electoral district.

The detention in preventive custody of Legislator Castillo came despite the fact he has not been called to trial in the rigged legal process against him. For that reason, his preventive custody cannot be interpreted in any way other than as political persecution. The persecution against Castillo is not a coincidence, since he was the first president of Panama's National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives in 1972.

More recently, charges were fabricated against PRD Legislator Balbina Herrera Arauz. At first there was an attempt to connect her to the regrettable murder of Efrain Guzman Baules, a charge that fell through when it was proven she had been hospitalized at the time of the incident. In view of that fact, Legislator Balbina Herrera Arauz was then accused of being personally involved in the regrettable murder of Armando Moran Nunez.

As the investigation continued, the absurd accusation collapsed, so now the idea is to accuse her of masterminding the crime, although there is no testimony to support this charge. Not content with that, the Attorney General's Office is breaking down the case to try to also accuse her of depriving people of their political liberties. It is no coincidence that Balbina Herrera Arauz was elected by the people in 1984 to the post of Mayor of San Miguelito, the country's most densely populated district, and to the post of legislator for that same district for the 1989-1994 period.

We report that the majority of opposition legislators are also the target of rigged legal processes, so we will also be the victims of actions similar to those we are now denouncing.

At this critical moment for our country and the world, the regime's behavior, far from achieving reconciliation among Panamanians, will lead to the radicalization of mass sectors. For that reason, we appeal for reflection and denounce this problem at home and abroad in the hope of building a true and egalitarian democracy in our country.

Issued in Panama City on 15 January

[Signed] Alberto Aleman Boyd, PRD Legislative Assembly bloc

2 Officers Seek Asylum at Guatemalan Embassy

PA2301164491 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2314 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] A Panamanian source said today that Captain Jorge Eliecer Bernal and Lieutenant Mario Ramos Ocana, who participated in the military protest in Panama last 5 December, have sought refuge at the Guatemalan Embassy. The source said both military officers entered the diplomatic mission last Thursday, 17 January.

The number of Panamanian military officers involved in the 5 December military protest who have decided to leave the country under the protection of a brother country's flag is now 10. With the exception of Bernal and Ramos, the other eight military officers have already left the country because the government recognized their status as political exiles.

'Irregular Army' Reportedly Forming in Costa Rica

PA2301173591 Panama City EL PERIODICO in Spanish 23 Jan 91 p 6

[Text] An accredited source has informed this newspaper that an irregular army comprised of several hundred people has been detected in Costa Rica. The armed movement has not been linked to any opposition group up to now. It has leaked out, however, that the group is the same one that attempted to enter the country in December 1990.

The massive presence of U.S. soldiers in Chiriqui province—an estimated 4,000 soldiers—confirms the information available on the insurgent group. The Panamanian Government and the U.S. Embassy have not been able to explain why there is such a large contingent of heavily-armed soldiers. The excuse for their presence in Chiriqui is that the soldiers are going to build a couple of roads in Tole and Gualaca. These troops, however, carry very little construction equipment.

The U.S. soldiers have taken control of the Enrique Malek Airport, Cerro San Cristobal, Paso Canoas border area, and the city of David. Actions to repel the foreign army's presence take place in these areas every day.

A group of bootblacks spat at the soldiers in Cervantes Park, while another Chiriqui resident burned the U.S. flag in front of the occupation army's soldiers. The Chiriqui resident was applauded and praised for his courage by the people who were present, and they shared a case of beer with him.

Trustworthy sources assured EL PERIODICO that the U.S. Government is trying to control a situation that could bring violence to the country and has given instructions in this respect to the Panamanian authorities.

To this end, a high-level Bush administration official arrived in the country a few days ago. This official also met with Colonel Eduardo Herrera Hassan, who is currently imprisoned but might be set free in the coming hours.

Argentina

Menem Offers Food, Medicine to Arab Countries

PY2401014491 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0052 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (TELAM)—President Menem tonight offered aid to Arab countries that suffer from a lack of food and medicine as a result of the Persian Gulf conflict. This information was provided by Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Subiza after a meeting the chief of state had with the Turkish, Egyptian, Lebanese, Libyan, Saudi Arabian, Syrian, and Moroccan ambassadors to Argentina.

The official reiterated that logistical support for the allied troops is a matter that must be resolved by Congress.

Senator Eduardo Menem, advisers Omar Vaquir and Munir Menem, and Eduardo Bauza, secretary general of the Presidency, also participated in the meeting.

Iraqi Arson of Kuwaiti Oil Wells Condemned

PY2401113891 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1041 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Jan (TELAM)—The Argentine Government has condemned Iraq's intentional torching of oil wells and installations in Kuwait. The government has also warned of the ecologic consequences which may not be reversed.

In the usual communique read by the Foreign Ministry Press Director Dante Loss, last night the Argentine Government reiterated that there is no alternative other than the total and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti territory.

The message adds that oil well fires and the damage that such action causes constitutes an escalation of the conflict since the ecologic consequences may not be reversed and they will affect all people regardless of where they live in the world.

At this dramatic and costly time to human life, the communique also states that the national government is following with great concern the developments in the Gulf.

There is no alternative to the absolute and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti territory, the government confirms, and it adds: Iraq must comply immediately and entirely with the UN Security Council resolutions on the Persian Gulf conflict.

The communique ends by pointing out that Argentina will continue to comply with the decisions of UN Security Council which is responsible for maintaining international peace and security.

Attacks on Israel, Treatment of POW's Condemned

PY2301154891 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0958 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (TELAM)—The Argentine Government has condemned Iraq's indiscriminate missile attacks against the civilian population of Israel, a country that is not participating in the conflict and has shown great moderation when dealing with the provocations against its integrity.

The Argentine Government issued a communique that was released by Foreign Ministry Press Director Dante Loss urging Iraqi authorities to refrain from killing innocent people and to observe UN Security Council Resolution 660 so that peace can be reestablished in the region.

The communique adds that the government is studying ways to give a positive answer to a UN Coordinating Office request for humanitarian and emergency assistance in case of a disaster in the Gulf.

According to the communique, our country would be willing to provide a plane to transport food and humanitarian aid to victims of the conflict.

According to the Foreign Ministry, this attitude is in accordance with the traditional Argentine position of broad humanitarian cooperation with peoples afflicted by wars or natural disasters.

The communique notes that Iraq's condemnable attack violates basic rules of international law established in the 1949 Geneva Convention. The communique concludes by calling on Iraq to respect international law on the treatment of prisoners of war.

Deputies Authorize 'Logistical Support' in Gulf

PY2401030891 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0251 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (NA)—The Chamber of Deputies tonight approved—with 117 votes for and 99 against—the executive branch's draft law authorizing the Navy's vessels to remain in the Persian Gulf to provide logistical support to the multinational force fighting Iraq. [Words indistinct] voting concluded at approximately 0045 with the [word indistinct] of the governing party; thus, the executive branch's position has been ratified.

Justicialist Party Supports Troops in Gulf

PY2301210891 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Jan 91 p 11

[Text] Four months after President Carlos Menem's decision to send two naval vessels to the Persian Gulf, the Justicialist Party issued a brief statement yesterday supporting the participation of Argentine troops in the Gulf war.

The communique comes only 24 hours before a key vote in the Lower House where both sides say they can count on a majority either for or against keeping the vessels in the Gulf area.

The Justicialist statement was made public yesterday by party chairman Eduardo Menem during a press conference in which he limited his statement almost exclusively to the contents of the communique.

"The Justicialist Party expresses its support for the government's decision to send troops to the Persian Gulf to back the forces seeking the immediate withdrawal of the Iraqi invaders from Kuwaiti territory," the document read.

The president's brother explained: "The option is very clear in these dramatic moments: one is either with the United Nations as the foremost expression of the organized international community or with Saddam Husayn and his hegemonic ambitions based on an anachronistic and Messianic fundamentalism."

Eduardo Menem underlined that "Argentina cannot expect to have benefits of a just international order without looking after the responsibilities which its construction demands."

Meanwhile, members of the Lower House opposition yesterday expressed their hopes of winning the voting procedure which will follow the end of the debate on the participation of Argentine troops in the Gulf conflict today.

The legislators—members on the Radical bloc, the Group of Eight and small centre-left and leftist parties, stated however that the Justicialist bloc could leave the house without quorum as they did on Saturday [19 January] morning "if they see they don't have the necessary votes to win."

Ex-President Raul Alfonsin urged deputies to come and vote against the government bill. He said that the congressmen "will have in their hands the most important decision in the life of a society: To vote for war or for peace."

Alfonsin's aides and former state officials Horacio Jaunarena and Raul Alconada Sempe in turn denied an accusation of Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo, who stated that the Radical administration had secret plans to sell Condor II missiles to Iraq. They demanded that Cavallo produce evidence of his statement.

For his part, Federico Clerici, president of the Democratic Centre Union (UCeDe)—the only party outside the government which supports the measure—forecast that today's voting "will be very tough and the result will be close." Clerici considered that "the fact that the democratic representatives of the Argentine people vote on this issue and the decision is not taken alone by a leader is very healthy."

In related news, some 20 political, social and human rights groups continued yesterday with preparations for the demonstration against the presence of the two ships [in the Gulf] to be staged at 7 pm today.

Cavallo Asserts Falklands Not Similar to Kuwait

PY2301174491 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1326 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo said today that the invasion of Kuwait is a case completely different from the Malvinas conflict, and he stressed that those who confuse the two are making a very serious mistake.

Cavallo said that the Malvinas Islands issue was the result of a conflict between the United Kingdom and Argentina and that at the time the UN Security Council invited the two countries to negotiate.

Cavallo said that the Malvinas Islands were occupied when the United Kingdom was a colonial power and when no Argentine citizens were present. The islands have been occupied since 1833, they have never been considered an independent country, and they are not a member of the UN.

Cavallo said that the Malvinas conflict was the consequence of an Argentine effort to recover its sovereign rights over the islands by force. Today we are dealing with Iraq's invasion of a sovereign nation and a UN member and with the violence against the Kuwaiti people who live in the country.

The minister said that it is as if Argentina decided to invade Uruguay, arguing that the brotherly country was once part of the River Plate Viceroyalty.

They are two totally different cases. Those who compare the two are just seeking to stir up support for Saddam Husayn in Argentina. You cannot be indecisive when facing difficult situations such as the one the world is experiencing today.

Cavallo said that those who seek to have Argentina recall its ships from the Gulf, where they are giving logistic support to the UN, are playing into the hands of Husayn who wants to use Western democracies [words indistinct] "because they now are marching against Iraq after looking the other way before." These elements want to weaken the world position on respect for freedoms and the sovereignty of peoples.

Bolivia

Deputy Charges Border Markers With Chile Moved

PY2301121891 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Senate Second Vice President Jorge Barrientos today said that people with interests in Chile are reportedly moving the border markers set up between the two countries.

[Begin Barrientos recording] At the dedication of a water supply system and a health center in the town of (Tisia Bolivar) on the border with Chile, we received a report which worries us. Local officials reported that Chileans with interests in that border area, specifically between border markers 20 and 21, have removed these markers to extend Chilean territory some 800 km [as heard] into Bolivia. This change would also allow the Chileans to use clear springs with potable water which, instead of benefiting Bolivians, will also be diverted to provide water to Chilean towns.

We submitted this report to the mayor of Oruro, first of all. He accompanied us in verifying the report, and now, in our role as congressmen and representatives of Oruro Department, we are also submitting the report to the Foreign Ministry and to the Defense Ministry. Now, through our Foreign Ministry commission, we are demanding an investigation of the case so as to safeguard the fatherland's sovereignty. [end recording]

Brazil

Domestically Made Rocket Launcher Sold to Iraq

PY2401030291 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] A Brazilian-made weapon is ready to be used during ground battles in the Persian Gulf; it was sold to three countries in that region by an enterprise from Sao Jose dos Campos, Sao Paulo.

The Astros-2 is the most modern Brazilian-made weapon on the battlefield. It is a ground-to-ground rocket launching system, the best artillery defense weapon. According to the manufacturer, its destructive power is its main asset. It is capable of firing 32 rockets with a range of up to 70 km in only 12 seconds. It has a firing capacity equivalent to that of 15 conventional tanks. It is a star weapon used by the parties at war. The Astros-2 was sold to Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and a third country in the Persian Gulf region that the manufacturer refused to identify.

Despite what some believe, the war does not mean new deals for the Brazilian industry. The factory is almost at a standstill and does not have prospects for receiving new orders.

Attack on Israel Viewed With 'Displeasure'

PY2401015291 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Relay by Alexandre Garcia from Brasilia]

[Excerpt] Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek called the Israeli ambassador in Brasilia today to say that the Brazilian Government views the Iraqi attacks on Israel with special displeasure, and that the government regrets the loss of human life in Tel Aviv. [passage omitted]

Itamaraty Plans Evacuation of Brazilians in Qatar

PY2401005091 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] The Brazilian Embassy in the United Arab Emirates today drew up a plan to evacuate 45 Brazilian citizens in Qatar. Itamaraty still does not know exactly how many Brazilians wish to leave the region due to the Persian Gulf war, but the plan is to help them travel from Doha to Dubayy in the United Arab Emirates, where they can board a (?commercial) flight. The Brazilian citizens—who are soccer coaches or players, some of them accompanied by their families—will be evacuated by land through Saudi Arabian territory.

According to Itamaraty spokesman Jose Vicente Pimentel, there is no plan to hire a charter or to finance the group's airfare because they all have the necessary financial means to leave the area.

Military Ministries Cut Back on Fuel Consumption

PY2401002091 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] The military ministries have adopted measures to cut back on fuel consumption. Army Minister Carlos Tinoco has ordered the suspension of all vehicle parades for celebrations scheduled for this year. Aeronautics Minister Socrates Monteiro has decided to extend the 40-percent reduction in the Brazilian Air Force's flying hours into 1991. This decision will represent a savings of 3.5 million cruzeiros.

The most serious cuts will affect the special transportation groups responsible for transportation of the ministers and the president. The anniversary of the Monte Castello occupation on 21 February will be the first Army celebration to lose a bit of splendor.

The measures implemented by the military ministers are in keeping with federal orders on cutting down on fuel expenditures.

Government Accepts Paper's Apology to Collor

PY2401034091 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Planalto Palace announced today that the government has accepted the SUNDAY TIMES' apologies. This British daily published a slanderous article about President Fernando Collor. The SUNDAY TIMES offered a symbolic indemnization of 3.2 million cruzeiros. President Collor has donated this sum of money to Father Giulio Lanzelotte, founder of the Children and Youths Defense Center, which fights the killing of children in Sao Paulo. The donation was made through UNICEF and the CNBB (National Conference of Brazilian Bishops).

* Serra on Constitution, Wage Policy, Inflation

91SM0144A Sao Paulo ISTOE SENHOR in Portuguese 21 Nov 90 pp 7-10

[Interview with PSDB Deputy Jose Serra by Jose Carlos Bardawil and Nelson Letaif; place and date not given: "An All-Consuming Short-Range Outlook"—first two paragraphs are ISTOE SENHOR introduction]

[Text] Sitting atop the mountain of votes—almost 340,000—that he received in October, Federal Deputy Jose Serra (PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party]-Sao Paulo) once again finds his name being considered as a possible replacement for Minister of the Economy Zelia Cardoso de Mello. That kind of speculation has been repeated monotonously in Serra's life ever since he coordinated—in 1984—the drafting of the economic program of the Tancredo Neves administration. The "tucano" [as published] economist has ambivalent feelings with respect to these speculations. Whereas on the one hand his ego is flattered by the perception that people regard him as capable of holding that office, accepting it would mean having to renounce his personal ambition. Not to mention the fact that—as he admits—the rumors have never been translated into a concrete invitation to hold that post.

A native of the city of Sao Paulo, at 48 years of age this son of Italian immigrants regards himself as prepared to meet a challenge of these proportions. As between the executive and legislative branches, his heart—or more properly speaking, his head—inclines more toward the former. He knows that this preference would today have been exercised if Mario Covas had been elected president in 1989 instead of Collor. Although he does not say so, Serra will be able to perfect this expertise (he was Governor Franco Montoro's secretary of planning) if he is elected mayor of Sao Paulo in 1992. Until then he will attempt to do a good job as deputy, and this presupposes that he will be open to dialogue, including dialogue with President Collor. But just so that no one will have any doubts, he is asking that his party stand in opposition to the federal government. He attributes whatever suspicions may exist to the fact that people have been reasoning as though we were still in the era of the dictatorship, when to engage in a normal conversation meant that you have been coopted.

[ISTOE] You have just introduced a bill in Congress to advance the date of the elections. Why would an early plebiscite be a good idea at this time?

[Serra] The important thing is not to advance the date for the plebiscite but to advance the date for revision of the Constitution. Advancing the date of the plebiscite is merely incidental. We cannot revise the Constitution—a step which in practice will be the equivalent of convening a new Constituent Assembly—and later hold a plebiscite and find ourselves obliged to revise the Constitution once again in the event the parliamentary system wins the plebiscite. The main consideration is therefore to advance the date of the revision. Why? Because it is now scheduled for after 5 October 1993, the fifth anniversary of the Constitution, but will inevitably be delayed until 1994. What you will then have is a quasi-Constituent Assembly in a "superelection" year, when the president of the Republic, state governors, two-thirds of the Senate, state deputies, and federal deputies will be elected. There is no year less propitious for a revision of the Constitution in an atmosphere of calm.

[ISTOE] Do the political conditions exist for changes in this schedule?

[Serra] Revision is not dependent on whether someone wants it, because it is established in the Constitution. If there is no consensus, the date will not be changed.

[ISTOE] How would this revision be effected? Would it mean virtually instituting a new constituent process?

[Serra] For all practical purposes. Because Congress will function on a unicameral basis, the quorum for changing the Constitution will decrease by 50 percent. There will be by-laws to expedite processing of the amendments. I have no doubt that there will be a virtual Constituent Assembly—a new Congressional constituent assembly.

[ISTOE] The man in the street is saying that Congress did not take care of the business of amending the Constitution, and now it is preoccupied with a process that will take years to complete. What responsibility does the present Congress bear for this delay?

[Serra] The fact that a great number of ordinary and complementary laws remain to be enacted in order to amend the Constitution does not, in my opinion, justify not advancing the date of the constitutional revision, because not advancing the date would mean that it would take not two years (revision would still require two years, even in the event the date is advanced) but three years to enact these laws. The second point is that a new revision can simplify many things in the Constitution, by removing the cross reference made to certain laws ("future law," for example).

'To Say That Congress' Only Problem Is Absenteeism Is a Superficial Way of Looking at Things'

[ISTOE] In any event, we could not continue in this constitutional limbo until 1973.

[Serra] Certainly not. There are many things that must and should be done. Congress' delay in amending the Constitution involves structural factors that relate to Congressional procedures, to situational factors, and to the very difficulty that the drafting of complementary laws entails. To say that Congress' only problem is absenteeism is a superficial way of looking at things.

[ISTOE] What does your party's support for the reelection of Dr. Ulysses to the presidency of the Chamber of Deputies have to do with the need to modernize the procedures?

[Serra] That subject was not discussed by the party, but I personally would view very favorably the election of either Nelson Jobim or Ulysses, based on the principle—on the tradition—in both the Chamber and the Senate that the majority party shall occupy the presidency. I believe these are the two people who are today most in accord with the concept of an internal reorganization of Congress.

[ISTOE] Do you believe the parliamentary system has a better chance this time?

[Serra] This time it is a different question, because it will not be resolved within the confines of Congress but by a plebiscite. In this sense it will be the first time.

[ISTOE] Previous experience with plebiscites in Brazil has shown that the governmental machinery is very influential. If this experience is now repeated, the machinery of government will be behind the scenes and will probably work in favor of the presidential system.

[Serra] The statements that the president of the Republic has made—and made repeatedly—have always been in favor of the parliamentary system.

[ISTOE] According to Mario Soares, that is not what the president said.

[Serra] Inasmuch as I favor the parliamentary system, I tend in principle to believe all those who proclaim themselves to be in favor of the parliamentary system, because I have an interest in gathering support.

[ISTOE] Collor is in favor of the parliamentary system when he is in Brazil, and when he leaves the country he is in favor of the presidential system.

[Serra] What you have is the following phenomenon: Alfonsin was an advocate of the parliamentary system, but he did not put that system into effect in Argentina. Sarney had said he was in favor of the parliamentary system, but then he opposed it. I hope such a posture does not become the rule: that is to say, people are in favor of the parliamentary system before and after—but not during—their tenure in the government.

[ISTOE] When the parliamentary system was discussed in the Constituent Assembly, the problem of who should deal with the military was raised. What is your opinion?

[Serra] The basic question is that the military chiefs in Brazil are cabinet ministers, and I believe it would be very difficult for this to change. You would then be faced with a very strange situation, in that the problem of the military ministers would arise every time a government fell or every time it received or lost a vote of confidence. In Spain, the chief of the Armed Forces is the king.

[ISTOE] In Brazil, thanks to the institution of the provisional measure, the president is virtually a king. How can limitations be placed on this role?

[Serra] I must plead guilty on this point, because I was one of those responsible for including the provisional measure in the Constitution. Why was it included? Because it is a necessary instrument for self-government in the world of today, when you sometimes have to make decisions that cannot wait, especially in the economic and similar areas. It so happens that the provisional measure was conceived in the context of a parliamentary system, under which the government necessarily has a majority in the Chamber of Deputies; and for that reason the instrument of the provisional measure is used only in very exceptional instances. It is not used to impose a particular law upon Congress. It is used in practice to deal with emergency situations, because the government in practice has a majority and would have no problem passing a bill. If we were to have a well-constructed parliamentary system in Brazil, I would not change very much in connection with the provisional measures.

[ISTOE] But is it not true that in practice the provisional measure has been transformed into an instrument of incredible power?

[Serra] That is correct, but if the presidential system is retained there will have to be changes.

[ISTOE] But can the present Congress limit this power to pass provisional measures?

[Serra] It can and should, and a bill in that connection has already been introduced. I am in general inclined to support Nelson Jobim's bill, which is now moving through Congress. His bill, for example, puts limitations on the reissuance of the provisional measures, which is the crucial question. It also defines more clearly the areas where these measures are applicable, including those in the economic sphere.

'As for Opening the Economy to Foreign Competition, the Government Is Still in the Planning Stage'

[ISTOE] What is your assessment of the Collor administration at this point in time?

[Serra] It is difficult to make an assessment from the point of view of the area with which I am most closely associated: that is to say, from the medium- and long-term economic standpoint, because the fact is that the government is consumed by short-term considerations and especially by the problem of inflation. As for inflation, the government was successful in ending the hyperinflation, bringing it down to 10 or 12 percent from 80 percent, but it is having very great difficulty in bringing it down. Otherwise, I have little to say on the subject. As for opening the economy to foreign competition, I believe that is still mostly in the planning stage. Brazil does not have a fund of foreign exchange to ante up to promote a genuine "opening." The truth is that the effect of what is being done in this area is more in the nature of a demonstration that is somewhat permanent than it is a manifestation of a genuine industrial and foreign-trade policy.

[ISTOE] But is this at least having the effect of energizing the nation's business community to meet the competition?

[Serra] Only to a small extent. In the automotive area, for example, it is not enough for you to import 10,000 or 20,000 Ladas; a policy of competition would presuppose that you will import at least 100,000 per year for several years. This involves a different situation with respect to foreign exchange and foreign trade—a situation that does not yet obtain—because opening the economy to foreign competition is very different from selective "openings" intended to punish a particular sector or to absorb the purchasing power of the upper middle class (in the case of purchases of luxury automobiles and the like).

[ISTOE] Ever since the Tancredo era you have been mentioned as a potential Brazilian minister of the economy. In that case, would you do what Zelia Cardoso de Mello has done as minister of the economy?

[Serra] Making an abstract analysis of that kind is somewhat difficult, because the individual—the economic expert—is never alone. It depends on the system to which one subscribes, on the party to which one belongs, and so forth.

[ISTOE] Let me put the question another way. If you were minister of the economy, would your model be the same as the Collor administration's model?

[Serra] Not exactly the same. For example, I would not have instituted the retention of savings.

[ISTOE] Do you approve of the current wage policy?

[Serra] No, I do not. I would have continued wage and price fixing, which was originally a part of the plan. The elimination of that policy immediately after instituting the policy of open negotiation was a mistake, because we have a closed economy. Open wage negotiations in a closed economy can be even more inflationary than any other type of negotiation. It is as unrealistic as trying to brake an automobile traveling at 140 km per hour to a stop within a distance of five meters.

[ISTOE] Do you believe it is a myth to say that wage indexation would refuel inflation?

[Serra] I do not agree that indexation is necessarily inflationary. Everything depends on how it is carried out. For example, if you follow a strategy of fixing wages and prices accompanied by compensation every three months for possible errors in that process, a formula of this type will not necessarily refuel and speed up inflation. It can be compatible with a drop in inflation.

'Some in the Opposition Should Stop Playing the Game of The Worse Things Get, the Better'

[ISTOE] In the course of these discussions concerning an agreement, a formula capable of solving this wage problem is being sought. Everything is being stymied, however, by the government's refusal to accept any form of wage or price fixing. What is your opinion of this position on the part of the government?

[Serra] I believe that a formula has to be arrived at. The government's resolute position of accepting nothing a priori is one thing, and a de facto situation reached through a negotiation process is quite another. In order to have successful negotiations, the government would have to be prepared to be less intransigent, on the one hand, while on the other hand some in the opposition—not everyone—should stop playing the game of "the worse things get, the better."

[ISTOE] What are the minimum conditions that we lack today and that are necessary in order to arrive at what is called an agreement, a compact?

[Serra] The first thing is to separate what can be described as the inflation question from the more general political question in the nation. The problem of inflation must today be dealt with as a national problem: that is to say, it is not strictly a problem of the Collor administration, just as in Argentina it was not strictly a problem of the Menem administration. The fact that the Menem administration had failed "in the Wagnerian manner" to halt inflation did not yield any benefits to Alfonsin. What is breaking down is the Argentine economy and society. The second thing is that the government and the opposition must display boldness in moving these negotiations forward. Successful negotiations cannot be conducted without involving politics: without involving Congress. If we add to the policy of monetary and fiscal austerity a policy of coordinating prices and wages, as in Mexico, we shall bring inflation down rapidly. I am convinced that this is the case, and also that the entire nation will stand to gain thereby.

[ISTOE] Speaking of elections, what is the way out now for the PSDB, which received such modest—not to say disastrous—results in the last elections?

[Serra] These elections did turn out badly for the PSDB, especially in comparison with the success anticipated for it. The PSDB was founded in the belief that it would be the leading political party. That was what many of its founders and a large part of the public expected. The nation has indicated, in three consecutive years of elections, that such is not the case. This does not, in my opinion, invalidate the existence of the PSDB nor the possibility of its growing stronger in the future, because there is a demand in our country for a party such as the PSDB. What we must do is fill this need, and in my opinion there is reason to believe that the critical mass for doing so does exist.

[ISTOE] Has the PSDB leadership engaged in any self-criticism of this performance?

[Serra] This self-criticism exists today in fragmented form. To date it has not been made at any national meeting of the party, precisely because it was not desired

to schedule a meeting for that purpose before the second-round elections. As a result, what you have in this respect are mostly comments of a personal nature that are greatly influenced by phenomena of a regional nature.

[ISTOE] Does the PSDB today have a doctrinal criterion for support in the second round?

[Serra] No national criterion has been formulated, because the local situations differ widely and are very susceptible of individual interpretations. It would therefore be very difficult to establish a national criterion.

[ISTOE] In the case of Sao Paulo, where candidate Covas was always accused of being vague, does not the fact that the party has failed so far to decide in favor of any of the candidates serve to reinforce this image?

[Serra] What you see here is a paradox: the image of vagueness was conveyed to a great part of the population during the election campaign, despite the fact that our candidate is in no way someone whose political career has been vague, and despite the fact that in the presidential election the PSDB adopted a position that was one of support for the PT [Workers Party]. Now however, in the case of Sao Paulo, the PSDB has decided that it will not support either of the two candidates. In my view, the second round entails supporting one candidate or the other or neither of the two. In France, for example, in the election won by Giscard, the Socialist Party did not support either Giscard or Chaban Delmas. This is accordingly, in one sense, a legitimate position for a party to take—a legitimate partisan position—although this does not exempt individuals from making their own choice.

[ISTOE] For example, are you yourself going to vote in blank or not at all?

[Serra] No, I personally shall neither vote in blank nor abstain from voting.

[ISTOE] Are you going to vote for Paulo Maluf?

[Serra] No, I am not going to vote for Paulo Maluf either.

[ISTOE] There is every indication that the PSDB will also remain neutral at the national level. Does this mean, for example, that it will not be one of the parties participating in the parliamentary bloc that the government is trying to organize?

[Serra] The PSDB will not participate in any government bloc, inasmuch as it is an opposition party. The PSDB is not a party that is neutral vis-a-vis the government but a party in opposition to the government. It is not a question of standing in opposition to the nation. The PSDB is a party of opposition to the government, and it does not play the game of "the worse things get, the better." This obviously rules out not only participation in a government bloc but participation in any opposition bloc as well, because if the PSDB were to join in an opposition bloc it would amount to dissolving itself as a party.

[ISTOE] At this moment the government is reportedly already putting the finishing touches on the formation of a bloc in the Senate. In the event it does form the bloc in the Senate and also a bloc in the Chamber of Deputies, would that not change things?

[Serra] To tell the truth, I basically do not believe the government will follow through with its idea of the bloc, because that would have a highly destabilizing effect on the work of Congress. It would polarize Congress and create a type of antagonism that would be bad for the country and bad for the government.

[ISTOE] Then the opposition would have no other recourse than to form its own bloc?

[Serra] The opposition would then inevitably be impelled to do the same thing, because if you form a bloc on one side but not on the other, you will have a situation of inequality even in the distribution of the tasks of the committees as well as in the voting on the major issues.

[ISTOE] The PSDB says it is in opposition to the Collor administration. Sources within the Collor administration, however, continue to insist that the PSDB will wind up with representation in the cabinet. You are usually the first PSDB person to be mentioned for a cabinet post.

'To Be Considered for a Cabinet Post Pleases Me, But I Am in the Opposition'

[Serra] The fact that my name is constantly under consideration for a cabinet post—the fact that my name is constantly being mentioned in this connection regardless of the administration in office, for this is the third such administration—is something that on the one hand obviously pleases me. In other words, the people who do so have apparently concluded that I would be qualified to hold a decisive post in the economic area. On the other hand, it is important to explain that I have never actually been offered a cabinet post, and that fact is causing me some embarrassment. As a result, I find myself continually obliged to deny something that has not happened. It is important to understand that I am a member of a party that is in opposition to the government, and therefore—because I am a member of a party that is in opposition to the government—I will never be a cabinet minister in that government. Period.

[ISTOE] In Brazil, however, we have a long tradition of opposition parties which as soon as they are given cabinet posts take advantage of the situation and cease to be in the opposition.

[Serra] But the PSDB is not that kind of party. This does not mean that the PSDB would never participate in governments with other parties; it means instead that if this were to occur in the future, it would be in other forms rather than in the form of cabinet posts. There is a problem with respect to platforms and all the other things.

[ISTOE] Did you at any time have any contact with the president of the Republic?

[Serra] The only time I met Collor was when I accompanied the PSDB leadership to congratulate him on the day of his inauguration. I haven't seen him since.

[ISTOE] What fundamental difference is there between your party and the government that would justify your being in the opposition?

[Serra] Our platforms are entirely different.

[ISTOE] For a long time the federal government tried to sell the idea that it was in favor of social democracy. Does this administration have a social-democratic policy?

[Serra] This administration has so far been dominated by short-term considerations of inflation, and also by an aspect of its relations with Congress that has its origin in the provisional measures. It would therefore be very risky to base a medium- or long-range assessment on these seven or eight months of government.

[ISTOE] Are you a candidate for governor of Sao Paulo in 1994?

[Serra] Today I am a "candidate" to respond—during the next two years—to the vote that I received here in Sao Paulo.

[ISTOE] Is it not four years?

[Serra] It is four years. Now I must serve until the revision of the Constitution, because if I want the date of the revision to be advanced...

[ISTOE] The election for mayor will be held two years from now. Was the announcement not a mistake?

[Serra] Do not draw that conclusion, because I did not say so.

Chile

Government Expresses 'Solidarity' With Israel

PY2301235891 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] The government today expressed its solidarity with Israel and condemned Iraq's three missile attacks on Israel's civilian population. This statement was made by Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, who said he met with Israeli Ambassador Daniyel Moqedi.

[Begin Silva Cimma recording] We have to condemn the attack again. We condemned it officially when, the day before yesterday, we sent a message to the ambassador condemning the attack and expressing solidarity with Israel, which is not involved in the conflict. We naturally expressed our solidarity with a country that is being attacked without being involved in the war. [end recording]

Silva Cimma also said that the government condemns any use of war prisoners such as Iraq's actions because it is against the Geneva Convention and basic human rights. Silva added that the government is trying to get Chileans out of Israel through the International Organization for Migration and that positive results will soon be achieved.

Communist Party Rejects Violence in Baltic States

PY2401214891 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Volodia Teitelboim, Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] secretary general, has rejected the Soviet Army intervention in the Baltic states. Teitelboim said his party categorically condemns the use of force against people, adding that he has the authority to say this based on his experience in Chile. Teitelboim said Gorbachev's objective is to fully democratize socialism, but not within a capitalist system.

[Begin Teitelboim recording] The situation is very complex. [Words indistinct] said during a speech yesterday that he was for perestroyka and peace, that he disagrees with the military intervention in Lithuania, and that he seeks an understanding based on the fact that the Soviet Union must exist as such in order to be able to carry forward the country's democratization. [end recording]

Volodia Teitelboim also said it would be a historic mistake for the ruling coalition to separate some forces from their ticket in the upcoming municipal election.

Gladys Marin said the arguments put forth by some political leaders to justify the separation of the Communist Party are based on past drawbacks. Marin said these politicians are confusing history because at present the PCCh categorically rejects the armed struggle.

Government Responds to Bolivian Border Charge

PY2401005691 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] The Chilean Foreign Ministry has reported that Bolivia has not lodged any protest with Chile on border markers. In an official note, the Foreign Ministry referred to a report issued in La Paz by Bolivian Deputy [as heard] Jorge Barrientos that border markers were illegally set up on the border between Chile and Bolivia, resulting in the loss of approximately 800 km to Chile.

The Chilean Foreign Ministry recalled that the activities of the joint Chilean-Bolivian Border Commission, the only organization authorized to demarcate the border, were unilaterally halted by Bolivia in 1987.

Representatives of the two countries will probably resume talks very soon, the Foreign Ministry note added.

Ominami Questions U.S. Delay in GSP Privileges

PY2401012691 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Economy Minister Carlos Ominami said today that there is no reason why Chile should not be readmitted to the Generalized System of Preferences [GSP], as Carla Hills, the U.S. trade representative, recommended to President George Bush last November.

Ominami said it is not true that Chile's readmittance to the system did not occur because the law on industrial patents has not yet been promulgated. He added that this draft law has already been debated in Congress and all that is needed is a Constitutional Committee resolution on very specific aspects that are not very important. He added that the regulation establishing the date when the law will go into effect must still be approved. Therefore, he said, Chile has nothing pending except that the Foreign Ministry may convey the country's concern because the measure to readmit Chile to the system has not been implemented.

[Begin Ominami recording] There is no need for any specific measure because I believe there is a recommendation from Carla Hills to the U.S. President. Therefore, I believe the U.S. President should only take the necessary steps to implement the decision. I do not believe Chile will have to do anything specific except to convey to the U.S. Government its concern because the announced measure has not yet been implemented. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley said today that the delay in readmitting Chile to the Generalized System of Preferences is caused only by U.S. red tape and that there are no basic problems on this issue. Foxley added that he will leave for Washington on 28 January as president of the Development Committee of the World Bank and the IMF to evaluate the agenda for this year with high officials of the two multilateral organizations. On this occasion, Foxley will also meet with World Bank President Barber Conable and IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus. He will also meet with U.S. officials to evaluate Chilean prospects for the Americas Initiative proposed by President George Bush.

Drug Dealers Arrested, 1.2 Kg of Cocaine Seized

PY2401215091 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Agents of the Investigative Police's 5th Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Brigade have dismantled a gang of cocaine traffickers and arrested two individuals who were caught red-handed while distributing cocaine in Santiago nightclubs. They were identified as Ruben Adrian Sanrosa, 24, and Claudio Rene Testa, 22. The two individuals travelled to Arica and bought 1.2 kg of high-grade cocaine from Peruvian drug traffickers. Later, they returned to our capital to distribute the drug among addicts in nightclubs, but they were arrested by members of the civilian police. They were carrying drugs worth 30 million pesos at the time of their arrest.

Colombia

New Terrorist Group Supports Iraqi Government

PA2301223091 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2138 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Bogota, 23 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The appearance of a new terrorist organization which supports Iraq in its war against the United States and its allies today put the Colombian authorities on a state of alert, it was learned today.

The creation of the so-called "MAAI" (Armed Anti-Imperialist Movement) was announced in a pamphlet sent to the media which states that the organization will not attack the country's economic resources.

The armed organization said in its message that it will support Iraq in the war against the United States and that it will support Palestine in its territorial quest.

"We will also defend Latin America's liberty," it stated.

Given the appearance of the terrorist movement, the Colombian authorities have stepped up security measures at the U.S. and UK Embassies to prevent any attack against the installations and to protect diplomatic personnel.

FARC Commander, 6 Others Killed in Putumayo

PA2401020791 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0122 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Bogota, 23 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Colombian authorities have announced that seven guerrillas, among them the commander of the 13 Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), were killed today during an armed clash in the southern Putumayo region.

The action took place in the rural part of Villanueva (500 km south of Bogota) when the rebels ambushed a military patrol that was carrying out containment operations in the region.

Seven guerrillas were killed on the spot, among them Commander "Julio," and weapons and explosives were seized, the official source said.

In a second operation, the Army thwarted a renewed FARC attack on the "Trass-Andino" oil pipeline in the "Orito" oil zone (530 km south of Bogota).

Presidential Adviser Rafael Pardo Rueda gave assurances that the FARC offensive is not due to the military occupation of its general headquarters—which took place on 9 December—but to a strategy intended to press for peace negotiations.

Pardo said: "Colombia is not at war. It is facing serious public order problems initiated by members of the ELN

[Army of National Liberation] and FARC in an attempt to prove to the country that they are valid dialogue participants and to force the government into negotiations."

ELN Dynamites Cano Limon-Covenas Pipeline

PA2301192291 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] The Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline was dynamited again today in San Cayetano municipality, northern Santander, near Cucuta. This attack took place at km 260 and is the seventh thus far this year. It is considered the most serious attack in the past few months.

The Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] estimated that at least 15 million barrels have spilled thus far. Combined Army and police forces are in pursuit of the ELN [Army of National Liberation] guerrillas who carried out tne attack.

Police Unit Rescues Senator, Kills 4 Kidnappers

PA2301164291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1619 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Bogota, 22 Jan (EFE)—It has been officially announced that the Colombian Police rescued Liberal Senator Ivan de Jesus Gomez Osorio today in an action in which four of his kidnappers were killed in Medellin, in the northwestern part of the country.

Gomez Osorio was kidnapped on 10 January as he was leaving the Super Bus Company, where he is assistant manager. He was intercepted by several unidentified individuals.

The Extortion and Kidnapping Police Unit in Medellin, after obtaining information that made it possible to locate the kidnapped politician, carried out a special operation at the house in the Belencito neighborhood where he was being held captive.

According to the authorities, the police unit killed four unidentified kidnappers in the rescue operation. Gomez Osorio was unharmed.

Ivan Gomez Osorio, a lawyer and university professor, was elected senator of the republic to replace murdered Liberal leader Federico Estrada Velez, who obtained his seat in the elections on 11 March 1990. Estrada Velez was assassinated in May 1990, apparently by the drug mafia.

After his release today, the senator made a preliminary statement to the authorities who are trying to determine if the kidnappers were members of a guerrilla cell or a gang of common criminals.

Ecuador

U.S. Draws on Reserves, Lowers Oil Prices

PA2201132991 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Over the past weekend the price of Ecuadoran crude dropped by $2 as a consequence of the war in the Persian Gulf. Oil prices were quoted at $23.39 per barrel on the Gulf market, and at $22.68 in the Pacific. On 17 and 18 January the price dropped to $21.43 and $20.95, respectively, and held throughout the weekend.

The drop in oil prices due to the Persian Gulf war has been a harsh blow for many national economies, said Rene Vargas, a former energy and mines minister. He said that the U.S. decision to draw on its oil reserves has caused oil prices to drop.

[Begin Vargas recording] All of the countries were expecting higher oil prices because of the crisis. The United States, however, has drawn on its strategic reserves; it has placed its reserves on the market, thereby increasing the supply and causing oil prices to drop. This is a harsh blow for the economies of Venezuela, Mexico, Ecuador, and all the other countries that increased their production to ease the effects of the Persian Gulf crisis.

I believe that as a result of this U.S. measure it is only logical for the countries that had increased their production to now decrease that production. It is not feasible to sell oil at prices that do not compensate for the increases that will take place or have already taken place in such areas as transportation, raw material, imported machinery, etc., in Third World countries that produce raw materials. [end recording]

Paraguay

Protection of Allied Forces' Embassies Doubled

PY2301014291 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] The number of policemen in charge of protecting the embassies of the countries comprising the multinational allied forces fighting the Persian Gulf war has been doubled.

The police explained that this measure is aimed at preventing terrorist attacks against the allied forces that were called for by Iraq's Saddam Husayn.

Poll Shows Support for President, Politicians

PY2401001291 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 23 Jan 91 p 7

[Summary] In its 1990 report the firm Polls, Marketing, and Research (EMI) published the results of a survey conducted in Asuncion and greater Asuncion on the tasks performed in 1990 by the president of the Republic, Congress, the court, and the three labor

unions. In the survey, President Rodriguez received 6.6 points on a scale of one to 10; the United Labor Federation, 5.45 points; "democratic development," 5.35 points; the National Workers Federation, 5.1 points; the Chamber of Deputies, 4.4 points; and the court, 4.1 points.

In a parallel poll conducted by the same firm on the most popular candidate for president of the Republic, Domingo Laino, PLRA [Authentic Liberal Radical Party) leader, received 40.3 percent of the votes; Euclides Acevedo, PRF [Febrerista Revolutionary Party] leader, received 21.2 percent; Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca, Colorado Party leader, recieved 7.73 percent; Luis Maria Argana, Colorado Party leader, received 6.42 percent; and Carlos Romero Pereira, Colorado Party leader, received 6.34 percent. President Rodriguez; Angel R. Seifart, Colorado Party leader; Miguel Abdon Saguier, PLRA leader; Juan Carlos Galaverna, Colorado Party leader; Waldino Lovera, Mopoco [Colorado Popular Movement] leader; Caballero Vargas, PRF leader; Secundino Nunez, Christian Democratic Party leader; Blas N. Riquelme, Colorado Party leader; and even Alfredo Stroessner, former president of the Republic, each received five percent of the votes.

Peru

Explosives Thrown at Peruvian-U.S. Institute

PY2301195091 Madrid EFE in Spanish
1907 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Chiclayo, 23 Jan (EFE)—The national police in Chiclayo, 750 km north of Lima, have reported that presumed terrorists threw explosives today at the Peruvian-U.S. Institute in protest against the U.S. action against Iraq. The explosions only caused property damage. The attack took place this morning; it is the first carried out in Peru directly against an institution linked to the United States since the beginning of the Persian Gulf war.

"The property damage was considerable, but there were no casualties even though dozens of students were taking English classes at the time of the explosions," an institute source reported.

The police have not officially attributed the attack to any terrorist organization. Thus far, only the Maoist Shining Path group has organized street rallies in Lima against the United States and in support of Iraq and its president, Saddam Husayn.

Arequipa President Warns of Shining Path Actions

PY2301230691 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish
15 Jan 91 p 8

[Report by Aida Meza Paredes]

[Text] Arequipa—Victor Manzur, Arequipa Region president, has called on the government to counteract the progress of the Shining Path, which is threatening to reach the towns of the country's southern coasts, making them subject to a reign of terror and violence.

Manzur regretted that the necessary actions have not been implemented despite continuous requests made to the armed forces and police for the protection of Caraveli Province, which is the most endangered of the provinces.

He added that officials have information that if the subversives are not neutralized immediately, they will not only continue operating in this sector but also throughout the entire southern zone of the country.

He also confirmed information obtained by EXPRESO that the Shining Path terrorists have "breakfast in Acari, lunch in Jaqui, and dinner in Chala." He added: "The people who say that know what they are talking about."

He said the Shining Path's progress is also creating concern in the Arequipa congressional bloc, which may "demand a declaration of emergency in the areas threatened by terrorism."

[Meza] How do you believe terrorism should be fought?

[Manzur] Police or military action alone is not enough. What is also needed are the necessary resources to guarantee the construction of development projects for the well-being of areas where terrorism has operational capabilities.

[Meza] Where does the Shining Path have operational capabilities?

[Manzur] It has capabilities in the entire Caraveli region and in the upper regions of La Union because Caraveli and La Union are less developed provinces. We believe we have to carry out an aggressive development policy, but it is currently difficult to do that because of a budget shortage. With the emergency declaration, we are going to request the necessary funds to meet the population's demands and to guarantee the progress and well-being that the people deserve.

[Meza] In how many provinces is the Shining Path's presence being felt?

[Manzur] In all provinces bordering Ayacucho and Apurimac Departments; for example Caraveli, which borders Lucanas and Parinacochas Provinces, and La Union, which borders Apurimac and part of Cusco.

[Meza] What will happen if the Shining Path's progress is not checked? Will it progress?

[Manzur] Yes, its objective is the south. It is logical. If we do not take any measures, the Shining Path will begin terrorist actions in the other sectors of the region.

[Meza] In the mines, for example?

[Manzur] Of course.

[Meza] How are the Shining Path entering Arequipa Department?

[Manzur] Through a corridor that has been in operation since last year and the year before when Shining Path terrorists entered La Union, dynamiting the area and looting Cotahuasi District.

[Meza] We have seen that the terrorists are already coexisting with some people in that region. They live in the ravines and walk around the upper regions of Caraveli and Arequipa.... What can you tell us about it?

[Manzur] It is true; we all know that. There are no guarantees for civilian authorities in those regions. In general, the police forces have been withdrawn. This gives the Shining Path terrorists a much easier area of operation. In addition to that, they have been able to infiltrate groups of so-called individual prospectors.

[Meza] Then you agree with settlers' reports that the subversives were able to infiltrate the mining unions and groups of individual prospectors?

[Manzur] I am not the only one who is aware of that; most of the people of Arequipa, and its officials, are also aware of it. The fact that they were able to infiltrate the groups of individual prospectors allows them to move around that sector. Unfortunately, this is a problem in the upper Caraveli region and in some sectors of Condesuyos.

[Meza] The people of Jaqui, Chaparra, and Tocota, among others, are leaving their towns...which will soon become ghost towns....

[Manzur] I would not say ghost towns. What happens is that those towns have no officials, but part of the population is still there because they have to protect their crops, their land....

[Meza] The massive depopulation of the countryside cannot be denied.

[Manzur] This is obvious. People are forced to leave because of terrorist activities as well as the misery and hunger.

New National Intelligence Service Chief Installed

PY2401020091 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 16 Jan 91 p A 4

[Summary] Brigadier General Julio Salazar Monroe has been installed as new chief of the National Intelligence Service (SIN), replacing General Edwin Diaz, retired, who resigned after a telephone tapping investigation. The SIN includes the Armed Forces intelligence services, the police, and the Foreign Ministry; it is under the jurisdiction of the Presidency.

Uruguay

Argentine Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

PY2401013691 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0056 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Montevideo, 23 Jan (AFP-NA)—Official sources have confirmed [words indistinct] Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo arrived in Montevideo at 1918 on 23 January to hold talks on 24 January with President Luis Lacalle and his Uruguayan colleague Hector Gros Espiell on regional and bilateral topics.

Cavallo will first meet with Lacalle and then with Gros Espiell; they will evaluate the energy situation of the two countries [words indistinct], among other things.

He will then travel to the seaside resort of Punta del Este (140 km east of Montevideo), where he will participate in consultations with American and European ministers in an attempt to unblock the negotiations to liberalize world trade within the GATT framework.

Venezuela

Government, U.S. Bank Sign Economic Agreement

PA2301184091 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The Venezuelan Government and the United States' Export-Import Bank, Eximbank, have signed an important agreement that will allow Venezuela to begin its economic expansion process.

Finance Minister Roberto Pocaterra and Pedro R. Tinoco, Jr., president of the Venezuelan Central Bank, participated in the signing ceremony for the international agreement. The agreement amounts to $600 million but may be expanded in accordance with industrial programs and projects being developed by Venezuela.

According to Tinoco and Pocaterra, the agreement also represents a stimulus for Venezuela's reentry into the international market.

[Begin recording] [Tinoco] It is an agreement that guarantees repayment of the funds over time, which for the Eximbank is a very important guarantee. It is also an assurance that has opened up the possibility—almost a certainty—that the Eximbank will finance other Venezuelan projects, particularly in the area of the Venezuelan Corporation of Guayana.

[Pocaterra] It will be an important potential source of credit for the overall expansion of our private industry, which is being financed by the national banks with guarantees and credit from Eximbank. [end recording]

This agreement represents the first step toward a complementary agreement that will allow the Eximbank to offer additional protection against expropriation and other political problems.

Eximbank President John Macomber believes that opportunities for the U.S. private sector to finance Venezuelan private sector projects may be greatly increased in the future.

According to both Finance Minister Roberto Pocaterra and Central Bank President Pedro Tinoco, the importance of the credit is that it will act as an incentive for granting new credit to the country.

Guyana

Opposition Party Calls For Middle East Conference

FL2101150091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2008 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 20 Jan (CANA)—Guyana's left-leaning opposition Working People's Alliance (WPA) has called for an international conference on the Middle East. The party, commenting in a statement on the outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf, said such a conference is the "only rational and peaceful way forward" if the interests of the Arab peoples and the rest of the world are to be brought into harmony.

The party condemned Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait, the underlying cause of the war, saying it not only was completely unacceptable but also was a violation of international law and the United Nations Charter. The WPA, however, said the declaration of war by U.S.-led multinational forces on Iraq is an "unacceptable" response to the crisis. United Nations-imposed sanctions, the statement said, were not given enough time to work.

"The Arab nations were not given enough time, or political space to find an Arab solution to the crisis," the WPA noted. "Instead, we have the disheartening spectacle of the United Nations, the world's most important peace-keeping agency, waging a war of modern savagery in which the peoples of the Gulf will suffer most."

Meanwhile, Eusi Kwayana, co-leader of the party, continued a fast against the "actual destruction" of the Middle East and others. Kwayana, who represents the WPA in Parliament, began the fast last Monday [14 January].

Suriname

Kraag Following Developments in Gulf 'Closely'

FL1701181591 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] President Johan Kraag has, in reaction to the outbreak of war in the Gulf, declared that he totally regrets that it came so far. The cabinet of the president told our newsroom this morning that the government would follow the developments in the Gulf region very closely. President Kraag will presumably summon a second emergency meeting of the cabinet today [words indistinct] seriously. Earlier, government authorities had already announced that the crisis plan is ready, which will be implemented in the event of war in the Gulf. [passage indistinct]